



U.S. creating chaos in the world

2



Iran insists to exit nuclear deal if interests not met

2



Carlos Queiroz's Iran future unclear

15



Art exhibit on Daesh opens at Tehran

16

Talks to save JCPOA 'on right track': Zarif



See page 2

Iran blasts Israeli massacre of Palestinian protesters

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Iran's foreign minister has lashed out at the Israeli regime for pursuing a repressive approach to peaceful protests by Palestinians demanding right to return to their motherland.

Writing on his official Twitter page on Monday, Mohammad Javad Zarif took Israel to task for "massacring countless

Palestinians in cold blood as they protest in world's largest open air prison," in what was a direct allusion to the situation of the Palestinians who live under years-long Israeli blockade in the besieged Gaza Strip.

In another part of his tweet, Iran's top diplomat pointed to the move by Donald Trump to transfer the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem al-Quds → **2**

Iraq's Abadi congratulates Shia cleric Sadr on election win

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has phoned prominent Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr to congratulate him on winning the parliamentary elections.

The Iraqi premier congratulated Sadr after his bloc came in the first position place among the electoral lists, Sputnik quoted Sadr's office as saying in a statement on Tuesday. In the phone call, Abadi praised the holding of the electoral process in a secure and democratic atmosphere.

According to preliminary results announced by the Iraqi Independent High Electoral Commission, Sadr's Sairoon bloc took the lead after votes were counted in 16 out of Iraq's 18 provinces.

With over 91 percent of votes counted in 16 of Iraq's 18 provinces, Hadi al-Amiri's Fatah (Conquest) Coalition was in second place, while Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi's Nasr (Victory) Coalition once seen as the frontrunner, came in third. → **13**

Eurasian Economic Union to sign free trade agreement with Iran on Thursday

Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) will sign a free trade agreement with Iran in Astana on May 17, EEU press service reported.

A free trade zone will be established between the Eurasian Union and Iran to reduce import customs duties for a wide range of goods, while the sides also reached an agreement on broad-scale and sectoral

cooperation with China.

On the part of EEU, the agreements will be signed by the chair of the Eurasian Economic Union Board Tigran Sargsyan.

EEU, Chinese and Iranian high-ranking representatives will attend the signing ceremony.

(Source: news.am)



ARTICLE

Hanif Ghaffari
Political analyst

Who is audience of Elysee exactly?

Recently, French Finance Minister has challenged US President Donald Trump's policies towards the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in his stormy remarks. Bruno Le Maire has emphasized that Paris is seeking waivers and longer transition periods from the United States for companies such as Renault and Total (in Iran), as the region scrambles to save the 2015 accord and billions of dollars in trade. But the highlight of the speech of the French Finance Minister was where he challenged the macroeconomic policies of European countries towards the United States, and pressed for European Union measures to improve the bloc's "economic sovereignty" in the longer term:

"We have to work among ourselves in Europe to defend our European economic sovereignty," Le Maire said, adding that Europe could use the same instruments as the US to defend its interests. Speaking on Europe 1 he added: "Do we want to be a vassal that obeys and jumps to attention?" He then stated: "It's time that European countries opened their eyes ... The second avenue is looking at Europe's financial independence - what can we do to give Europe more financial tools allowing it to be independent from the United States? One proposal is to set up a purely European finance house to oversee euro-denominated transactions with Iran." He also proposed a European agency capable of following the activities of foreign companies.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian also toughened the French government's tone:

"We're telling the Americans that it's their business what sanctions they impose, but we consider the extraterritoriality of these measures unacceptable," Le Drian said. "Europeans should not have to pay for U.S. withdrawal from an agreement."

Without any doubts, the remarks of the Immanuel Macron's Finance and Foreign Ministers are true. Europe's lack of economic independence (even after the formation of the European Union), and the dependence of the European economic structure on the United States led to the annoyance of many European citizens. But despite the accuracy of Bruno Le Maire's words, it seems that it was too late for this speech to be delivered! → **7**

Trump's Quds move to fulfill campaign promise to wealthy Jewish donors: former CIA officer

By Lachin Rezaian

TEHRAN (MNA) — Former counter-terrorism specialist and military intelligence officer of the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Philip Giraldi said Donald Trump fulfills a promise to very wealthy Jewish contributors to his campaign, adding Benjamin Netanyahu wanted it and Trump is seen as someone who listens to Netanyahu.

Giraldi stressed that Israelis would like a war in the region, noting that Israelis may attack Iranian sites in Syria hoping to draw reactions and response of Iran because they are sure if this happens the United States will get involved and will take Israel's side.

Following is the full text of Philip Giraldi's interview with Mehr News Agency, on the sidelines of the last day of the 6th International Conference of Independent Thinkers and Artists (New Horizon):

By Nima Chitsaz

A day after the Israeli bloodshed in Gaza, the Palestinians are marking the 70th anniversary of Nakba Day (Day of the Catastrophe/Yawm an-Nakba), when Tel Aviv forced them out of their homeland and declared its existence on the occupied territory.

Palestinians both in the Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank are taking part in a general strike as they prepare for mass rallies later in the day to protest the creation of the Israeli entity and renew the call for a return to their motherland.

Nakba Day is commemorated on May 15 every year, marking the day after Israel declared its existence in 1948. That year also saw a war be-



How do you evaluate the possibility of war in the region after U.S. JCPOA pullout?

A: Well, that's a complicated question. I think the Israelis would like a war in the region. I think what they will do is that they will make attacks on Iranians in Syria. And they are hoping that Iran would then respond. And possibly the Unit-

ed States will get involved and will take Israel's side. But I think they would be a little bit cautious because I don't think that United States is ready to go to war with anyone and I believe that the politics of JCPOA is still continuing. The Europeans are very upset and angry about what the U.S. did. And I think they might make it difficult for Donald trump and the make efforts to improve the situation.

You said that Europeans are angry with Trump. Do you think Iran can trust them in continuing commitment to JCPOA?

A: I think yes they can. They can continue with it. They will get the support of Russia and china too. So they have the possibility of doing this and they at least can break the U.S. politically and very sharply. And I am not sure they are prepared to do that. Again as I said this is a developing situation I think you will know that in a week or at most in a month. → **7**

Israeli bloodshed in Gaza as Palestine marks Nakba Day

tween Israel and a coalition of Arab states over the control of Palestine, during which some 700,000 Palestinians were driven out of their homes and hundreds of Palestinian towns and villages were destroyed.

Around 35,000 protesters gathered at the border of Gaza and Israeli territory Monday to object to the embassy move, continuing the "Great March of Return".

The Monday protests in Gaza were part of the "Great March of Return," which first began on March 30 with the aim of condemning Israel's occupation and demanding their right to return.

The Israeli war machine remains on high alert in preparation for Tuesday's protests, a day after

its forces unleashed yet another brutal crackdown on Palestinian protesters in Gaza, killing 58 people on the spot and wounding over 2,700 others.

Earlier on Tuesday, Gaza's Health Ministry said that an eight-month-old baby identified as Leila al-Ghandour had died of teargas inhalation suffered on Monday.

Most of the fatalities, it added, were caused by "sniper fire."

Another Palestinian also succumbed to the wounds he sustained during Monday's rallies, bringing the death toll to 60.

To put that in perspective, the Israeli regime's forces had killed 53 protesters between March 30 and May 13. → **13**



© Tehran Times/ Marvan Kanvab

Stem cell, regenerative medicine factory opens

The first stem cell and regenerative medicine factory in the country was opened in Tehran on Saturday.

The company's macro-level orientation is to enter into the field of modern medicine such as biotechnology, drug delivery technologies based on nanotechnology, sustained release of medicines and development of cellular and molecular biology industries including cell therapy, gene therapy, immunotherapy and tissue engineering.

Zionism nothing but wacism: Canadian peace activist

TEHRAN (Tasnim) — A political analyst and peace activist based in Canada deplored the "barbaric crimes" of the Tel Aviv regime against Palestinians and said the Israeli people's support for recent killings of Gazans proves that "truly, Zionism is racism."

"...Today, we see Israeli spectators applauding the snipers along the Gaza fence as if the Palestinians were less than human. Truly, Zionism is racism!" Ken Stone, a member of the Hamilton Coalition to Stop the War, said in an interview with the Tasnim News Agency.

"The fact that Israel continues to get away with barbaric crimes is a function of its place in the Mideast as a nuclear-armed outpost of the US Empire," he noted.

Following is the full text of the interview:

At least one Palestinian was killed and more than 400 wounded from live Israeli fire and tear gas on Friday, as some 15,000 Palestinians participated in protests dubbed the "Great March of Return" along the Gaza border for the seventh consecutive weekend. About 50 people have been killed and more than 7,000 wounded by Israel since the protests began in late March. What do you think about the developments and the Israeli regime's crimes?

A: I salute the courageous people of Gaza who, with bare hands and stones, have challenged both Israel's occupational forces along the wire fences of the open-air prison called Gaza and also its illegal and brutal blockade of the Strip. I offer my deepest condolences to the families of the martyrs who perished at the hands of the cowardly Israeli snipers and to those who have suffered grievous injuries. And, as a Jew, I condemn, in the strongest possible terms, the State of Israel, which calls itself a Jewish state, but which has nothing whatever to do with Judaism, except to stir up anti-Semitism and to give the Jews of the whole world a bad name.

I look forward to Palestinian Land Day 2018 on which we hope the vast majority of the people of the world will demonstrate in various ways their solidarity with the Palestinian people for an end to the Zionist occupation of their homeland.

The State of Israel is part and parcel of the colonial project that divided up the world in previous centuries among various European colonial powers. Previous to the birth of the Zionist movement, Jews, Muslims, and Christians lived in peace in Palestine. → **7**

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Judiciary must form special branches to counter money laundering

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — The parliament approved a bill on Tuesday that requires the Judiciary to form special courts to investigate money laundering crimes, Mehr reported.

The parliament reviewed the remaining sections of the bill to amend money laundering law, and passed section 11 of the bill.

Under section 11, a number of public courts in Tehran and, if needed, in other provincial centers will be given the task to deal with money laundering and similar crimes.

It also says the public courts will not be prohibited from handling other types of crimes.



Embassy denies meeting between Kharrazi, Kerry

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Tehran's embassy in Paris has denied report of a meeting between former Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi and John Kerry, who served as U.S. secretary of state during Barack Obama's presidency.

The report was a "total lie" fabricated in line with previous moves of propaganda campaign against Tehran, Iranian embassy press attaché Hamid Moradkhani stated.

The Iranian diplomat issued a statement late on Sunday saying that Kharrazi was visiting Paris to attend the meetings of Leaders for Peace Foundation.

"Mr. Kharrazi will be Iran's permanent representatives at frequent meetings of this foundation," read the statement.



Putin reaffirms Russia's commitment to Iran deal

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Russian President Vladimir Putin has underlined Moscow's readiness to remain committed to the 2015 landmark nuclear deal despite the U.S. withdrawal from the agreement, Press TV reported.

Russia's Permanent Representative to the Vienna-based IAEA Mikhail Ulyanov made the comments while speaking to reporters following a meeting between the Russian president and the UN nuclear agency's chief Yukiya Amano in Sochi on Monday.

"As far as Iran is concerned, the president reaffirmed Russia's readiness to continue fulfilling the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (the official name for the nuclear deal) regardless of the United States' decision to withdraw from it," Ulyanov said.



Merkel: Trump's nuclear deal exit causes 'shift in German-American ties'

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — German Chancellor Angela Merkel has acknowledged that the Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), "certainly has weaknesses" but says it should be preserved.

Merkel said in a speech to a labor union congress in Berlin that Trump's decision to withdraw from the 2015 agreement marked "a shift in German-American, in European-American relations."

"Britain, France and Germany were of the opinion that the agreement against Iran's nuclear armament is an agreement that certainly has weaknesses, but an agreement we should stand by," she added, the Associated Press reported.



UK will not follow Trump in ditching Iran deal

British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson vowed on Wednesday that the UK will not walk away from the nuclear deal, saying it was Trump's responsibility to come up with a better proposal.

Johnson said the U.S. decision made no change to the British assessment that the agreement was vital for British national security and the stability of the Middle East, the Guardian reported.

Johnson also said regime change in Iran was not a policy Britain should pursue.

"I have to tell you that I do not believe that regime change in Tehran is the objective that we should be seeking," Johnson said in parliament in response to a question about whether he thought John Bolton, the U.S. National Security Advisor, was seeking regime change in Tehran.

"We might conceivably achieve regime change at some stage" but Qasem Soleimani of the IRGC could assume the rule in Iran.



European energy commissioner may visit Iran on May 19-20

European Energy Commissioner Miguel Arias Canete may visit Tehran on May 19-20 to discuss EU-Iran energy cooperation, EU spokeswoman Maja Kocijancic told reporters.

The program is still in the final stage of negotiations, said the EU spokeswoman.

According to her, this visit is very important to preserve the nuclear deal as long as Iran, in its turn, remains committed to the agreement, TASS reported.

The news comes a week after Trump announced the U.S. would exit the 2015 nuclear deal, also called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Rouhani receives credentials of five ambassadors

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — President Hassan Rouhani on Tuesday separately received credentials of the new ambassadors of Lebanon, New Zealand, Estonia, Nepal and Latvia.

In the meeting with new Lebanese Ambassador to Tehran Hassan Abbas, Rouhani said, "The Islamic Republic of Iran will continue its supports for the [Lebanese] government and nation to resist against terrorist groups and the aggressive measures adopted by the Zionist regime."

Rouhani expressed the hope that the recent elections in Lebanon would further strengthen unity in Lebanon, lead to economic flourishing of the country and bolster the Tehran-Beirut relations.

■ 'History will judge U.S. moves as deeply wrong'

In his meeting with Hamish MacMaster, the new ambassador of New Zealand, Rouhani railed against U.S. withdrawal from the nuclear deal as well as its embassy relocation to al-Quds (Jerusalem).

"History will judge that these decisions of the American government have been deeply



HASSAN ABBAS



HAMISH MACMASTER



MARIN MOTTUS



SEWA LAMSAL ADHIKARI



PETERIS KARLIS ELFERTS



wrong and incorrect with regard to Iran and people of the region," he stressed.

He also pointed to the good potentials for expansion of ties between Iran and New Zealand, saying such capacities should be used to deepen ties in different fields.

■ 'Europeans must stand against Washington's unwise act'

Speaking with Estonian Ambassador-at-Large Marin Mottus, the president pointed to friendly ties with Estonia, saying the Islamic Republic is ready for an all-round expansion of ties with that country.

Elsewhere, he said it is necessary that

the European countries resist against Washington's "unwise act" in walking out of the international nuclear agreement, saying Iran will remain in the nuclear pact, officially called the JCPOA, only if its full benefits are guaranteed.

■ 'Non-Aligned states duty bound to denounce atrocities against Palestinians'

In a meeting with Nepal's Ambassador-at-Large Sewa Lamsal Adhikari, Rouhani said all countries, especially the Non-Aligned states, have the duty to voice their decisive stance against Israel's atrocities against Palestinians.

Erdogan: U.S. withdrawal from JCPOA not correct

Turkish president believes Washington is bringing down "dark days" on world

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said the U.S. withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) would start a problematic period in the region.

Speaking to the BBC's HARDTalk program that was aired on Monday, Erdogan said he did not find the latest decision by the U.S. administration to withdraw from the deal as correct.

"Continuity between states is fundamental, especially the agreements are the assurance of the international continuity," he said.

Erdogan said a joint action plan was formed after the agreement was signed between Iran and five other countries as well as the U.S. and that action plan must be protected.

He also described the step taken by former President Barack Obama and Iran to clinch the nuclear deal as a positive peace step.

About whether the U.S. would start a new

arms race in the region following its decision on the Iran deal, the Turkish president said: "The U.S. has sent 5,000 trucks of weapons to Syria."

"[They] have sent 2,000 cargo planes of weapons."

"Why did those arms come here? A race of armament by the U.S. continued anyway

at the moment and this means that the U.S. ignores 20 sensitivities in [this] armament race.

"As we do not find this step correct, of course, it creates disappointment with us."

Erdogan expressed surprise at the fact that while France, the U.S. and some other countries possess nuclear weapons, they take the possibility of another country's nuclear weapons as a threat to the world.

He added: "America has chosen to be part of the problem and not the solution so they have lost their role as international mediator. We cannot stop feeling like being in dark days of pre-World War Two."



U.S. creating chaos in the world: Larijani

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Iranian Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani said on Tuesday that the U.S. is creating chaos in the world by trying to undermine the United Nations which is tasked to guard peace and security in the world.

"The U.S. seeks to annihilate the UN which is an international institution established to create peace in the world and to cause security chaos at the international arena," he said at an open session of the parliament.

He noted that the U.S. move in relocating its embassy in Israel to Quds (Jerusalem) is against the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly's charter, saying the U.S. seems to be discrediting this international institution.

U.S. relocated its embassy in Tel Aviv to al-Quds (Jerusalem) on Monday. Israeli snipers shot dead 60 Palestinians and wounded thousands who protested the relocation. Donald Trump's decision to move the U.S. embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to al-Quds has been blamed for the bloodshed.

Among the dead were eight children, including eight-month-old Laila Anwar

Ghandour. The health ministry said the baby was asphyxiated by tear gas, CNN reported.

Larijani said that killing the Palestinian protesters is a "shame" for the U.S. and the Zionist regime of Israel which will go down in history.

"It is obvious that these killings come from frustration of the Zionist regime and reveal its mess," he added.

Elsewhere, he said that the Palestinians will achieve victory through resistance.

The U.S. move in relocating embassy happened a day before the anniversary of the forcible Israeli eviction of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their homeland in 1948 known as Nakba Day, meaning Day of the Catastrophe.

Talks to save JCPOA 'on right track', Zarif says

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has said the negotiations aimed at protecting the multilateral nuclear deal after the U.S. withdrawal are "on the right track."

Zarif made the remarks in the Belgian capital Brussels on Tuesday after meet-

ing with EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini.

"We are on the right track to advance and make sure that all the interests of the remaining parties to the JCPOA, especially Iran, are preserved," the top Iranian diplomat told reporters, according to Press TV.

Iran insists to exit nuclear deal if interests not met

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Government spokesman Mohammad Baqer Nobakht on Tuesday reiterated Tehran's position that that Iran will exit the 2015 nuclear deal if remaining in it proves more "harmful than beneficial".

"We will exit the JCPOA [the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action] and resume uranium enrichment from below 4 percent to higher than 20 percent purity if our interests require and see that remaining in the JCPOA is more harmful than beneficial to us," he told a regular news briefing.

Nobakht said the U.S. sought to scrap the nuclear deal at the expenses of Iran and to create a consensus against Iran, however, an international consensus has been created against Washington by its pullout from the binding international agreement.

Since Trump walked out of the JCPOA, Rouhani's administration has come under harsh attacks by certain figures inside the country.

However, the government spokesman defended the Rouhani administration for clinching the nuclear deal with great



powers, saying, "History will respect Dr. Rouhani for his courage."

Trump has come under international criticism by world leaders and international organizations for leaving the agreement. His decision has been called the "most stupid" decision being take ever.

Since Trump announced his decision, Iran has threatened if the other members of the agreement, especially Europeans, do not give "guarantees" to Tehran about the benefits of the agreement it will remove cap on its nuclear activities.

The JCPOA was signed in July 2015 between Iran, the European Union, Germany and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council including the U.S.

"The JCPOA has benefits for all sides and we must make sure that [the U.S.] would not benefit from its illegal exit," the chief diplomat remarked.

Zarif also held talks with his French, German and British counterparts as well as Mogherini again later the day.

Relocation of U.S. embassy to Quds speeds up annihilation of Zionists: Velayati

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Ali Akbar Velayati, a top foreign policy adviser to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, said on Tuesday that relocation of the U.S. embassy to al-Quds (Jerusalem) speeds up annihilation of the Zionist regime of Israel.

"Relocation of the U.S. embassy to one of the most sacred religious places of the Muslims will speed up the process of the Zionist regime's collapse," Velayati said in a post on his Instagram.

U.S. relocated its embassy in Tel Aviv to al-Quds

(Jerusalem) on Monday. Israeli snipers shot dead 60 Palestinians and wounded thousands who protested the relocation. Donald Trump's decision to move the U.S. embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to al-Quds has been blamed for the bloodshed.

Velayati said that the U.S. move was taken to recognize the Zionist regime's "illegal" status, however, it revealed more the "cruel" image of the Zionists.

"Return to homeland which has been occupied by a tyrant and child-killer regime is a rightful demand which will be

met soon. The Palestinians have always resisted and will resist criminal acts of Israel which is being backed by the U.S. and certain reactionary allies in the region," he said.

Velayati, a veteran politician, noted that Quds has belonged and will belong to Muslims.

The U.S. move in relocating embassy happened a day before the anniversary of the forcible Israeli eviction of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their homeland in 1948 known as Nakba Day, meaning Day of the Catastrophe.

Iran blasts Israeli massacre of Palestinian protesters

Tehran urges international bodies to bring Israel to the International Criminal Court as a war criminal

1 → despite global outcry against the move, saying while Israel continues its brutal crackdown on Palestinians "Trump celebrates move of U.S. illegal embassy and his Arab collaborators move to divert attention."

Zarif described the U.S. embassy move and massacring of Palestinians as "a day of great shame".

Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi also in a statement strongly condemned

the unprecedented massacre of Palestinians by Israeli snipers ahead of Nakba Day (the anniversary of the Israeli regime's occupation of Palestinian land) and in protest at the relocation of the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to al-Quds.

"The killing of defenseless Palestinian children, women and people, and the occupation of Palestinian territories, have turned into the Zionists' main strategy during the past

70 years when the Palestinian land has been under occupation," he regretted.

"The non-stop and incessant crimes committed by the Zionists in Palestine are the result of the United States' unflinching support as well as the treacherous compromise and humiliating inaction of certain Middle East states, and they are undoubtedly responsible for, and accomplices to the unjust bloodletting in the occupied Palestine as well as the suffer-

ings and hardships," the spokesman stated.

Qassemi announced Iran's backing for Palestinians' legitimate struggles and patient resistance against the "triangle of money, bullying and hypocrisy".

He called on international organizations and bodies to take prompt action without any hesitation to bring the Tel Aviv regime to the International Criminal Court as a war criminal.

North Korea starts dismantling nuclear test site

North Korea has started dismantling its Punggye-ri nuclear test site, according to satellite pictures analyzed by experts.

The move comes weeks ahead of a historic meeting between North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and U.S. President Donald Trump during which the two countries will talk about denuclearization.

A group of researchers from 38 North, an organization dedicated to analysis of North Korean affairs, compared satellite images from April 20 with pictures taken on May 7.

The images show several buildings near all four entrance tunnels have been completely or partially demolished.

South Korea's military said on Tuesday that Pyongyang was moving ahead with plans to close its nuclear test site, according to the Associated Press news agency.

Roh Jae-cheon, spokesman for South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff, said South Korea's military had seen signs that North Korea is conducting "preparatory work" so that it can carry out its plans to shut down its northeastern testing ground. He did not specify what the military had seen.

According to the report published on the group's website, North Korea has also removed some of the mining cart rails used to access the underground part of the site, which is based in the mountainous northern region of North Korea. But not all buildings have been demolished yet, the researchers concluded.

"Other more substantial buildings around the facility remain intact, including the two largest buildings at the Command Center, and the Main Administrative Support Area," the researchers wrote. "Moreover, no tunnel entrances appear to have yet been permanently closed," they added.



North Korea invites journalists

North Korea has said it will completely dismantle the site, including collapsing the tunnels and blocking the entrances sometime between May 23 and May 25.

"The Nuclear Weapon Institute and other concerned institutions are taking technical measures for dismantling the northern nuclear test ground ... in order to ensure transparency of discontinuance of the nuclear test," North Korean press agency KCNA said earlier this week. On Tuesday, North Korea invited eight South Korean journalists to witness that event, according to Yonhap news agency.

Journalists from China, Russia, the United States and the United Kingdom will also attend the event. North Korean leader Kim Jong-un pledged to close the site during a landmark summit last month with South Ko-

rean President Moon Jae-in. Prior to Kim's meeting with Moon, the North Korean leader announced on April 21 that all nuclear and missile tests were to be suspended, saying the Punggye-ri site had "finished its mission" after completing its nuclear program.

But days later, the South China Morning Post newspaper reported that the facility had collapsed, threatening an "unprecedented risk" of radioactive fallout.

The newspaper said the Punggye-ri site, situated near Mount Mantap in northeastern North Korea, was "wrecked" beyond repair by a landslide. It suggested the incident "may" have been the reason for Kim's announcement of a suspension in testing.

Six nuclear tests - including North Korea's most powerful test to date in September 2017 - have been carried out at the facility

since Pyongyang began experiments in 2006.

The closure comes shortly before a planned meeting between Kim and Trump in Singapore on June 12.

It will mark the first summit between a sitting U.S. president and a North Korean leader. Trump is expected to push North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons at the meeting in exchange for the removal of economic sanctions and U.S. assistance in rebuilding Pyongyang's ailing economy.

South Korea has said it hopes the summit will lead to "denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, as well as permanent peace on the peninsula".

Meanwhile, North Korea and South Korea will hold high-level talks on Wednesday to discuss steps needed to uphold the pledge to denuclearize the Korean peninsula, South Korea said. The meeting will focus on plans to implement a declaration that emerged from an April 27 inter-Korea summit, including promises to formally end the Korean War and pursue "complete denuclearization", the South's unification ministry, which handles ties with the North, said on Tuesday.

Last month, Kim and Moon pledged to formally end the 1950s Korean War and pursue "complete denuclearization" of the Korean Peninsula in the first inter-Korea summit since 2007.

The two leaders signed a joint statement that committed both to deepening ties and working towards reunification after the meeting on April 27, which saw Kim become the first North Korean leader to set foot in South Korea since the Korean War, which took place from 1950 to 1953 and ended with an armistice agreement.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

MH370 captain 'deliberately evaded radar' during final moments of doomed flight

Aviation experts believe they may have solved the mystery of the disappearance of flight MH370, saying the 239 passengers and crew were the victims of a deliberate, criminal act carried out by the plane's captain.

The fate of the Boeing 777 has mystified investigators ever since it went missing en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing in 2014.

However, a panel of experts assembled for the Australian TV programme 60 Minutes says the evidence suggests Shah executed a careful series of manoeuvres to evade detection and ensure the plane disappeared in a remote location.

Martin Dolan, former head of the Australia Transport Safety Bureau, who led the two-year search for the missing plane, said: "This was planned, this was deliberate, and it was done over an extended period of time."

The plane was presumed to have flown on autopilot before running out of fuel and plunging into the southern Indian Ocean. However, the wreckage has never been found and the search was suspended in January last year.

The panel suggested a more gradual descent could mean the search was concentrated in the wrong area and that the plane could still be found largely intact.

Simon Hardy, a Boeing 777 instructor, said Captain Zaharie avoided detection by flying a careful course along the winding border between Malaysian and Thai air space, crossing in and out of radar cover on either side.

"So both of the controllers aren't bothered about this mysterious aircraft. Cause it's, 'Oh, it's gone. It's not in our space any more,'" he told the programme, which was broadcast on Sunday. "If you were commissioning me to do this operation and try and make a 777 disappear, I would do exactly the same thing."

He also pointed out the Malaysian captain had made an unexplained turn to fly over his home town of Penang.

"Somebody was looking out the window, It might be a long, emotional goodbye or a short, emotional goodbye to his home town," he said. Larry Vance, a veteran air crash investigator, told the programme the public could be confident in a growing consensus about the plane's final moments and



that the pilot was intent on killing himself.

"Unfortunately, he was killing everybody else on board, and he did it deliberately," he added.

The pilot

Theories about the plane's disappearance being due to a "rogue pilot" emerged soon after the tragedy.

Malaysian officials said they believed the plane went missing after a "deliberate act" and confirmed the last words heard from the cockpit were "good night Malaysian three seven zero". It's unknown whether the sentence was spoken by Captain Zaharie or the co-pilot, 27-year-old Fariq Abdul Hamid.

However no conclusive evidence has ever been found that one or both of the pilots deliberately steered the aircraft into the ocean. An initial interim report into the mystery in 2015 looked closely at Captain Zaharie's background and behaviour in the lead-up to the flight, but found his "ability to handle stress at work and home was good".

The report also stated: "There was no known history of apathy, anxiety, or irritability. There were no significant changes in his lifestyle, interpersonal conflict or family stresses."

Captain Zaharie's wife, Faizah Hanun, was questioned a number of times by the FBI and Malaysian police about her husband's state of mind leading up to the flight.

The pair were reported to have split-up before the crash,

although they were still living under the same roof in Kuala Lumpur. Speculation that Captain Zaharie may have brought the plane down as part of an elaborate insurance scam as also ruled out by the report, which found "no record of him having secured a life insurance policy."

Footage of the pilots and crew preparing to board the missing Boeing 777 again showed no untoward signs, with them appearing "well groomed and attired".

On Zaharie's behavior investigators concluded: "The gait, posture, facial expressions and mannerism were his normal characteristics."

Disappearance

MH370 lost contact with Malaysian Airlines less than an hour after it took off from Kuala Lumpur International Airport at 12.41am on 8 March 2014. No distress signal or communication was sent after it disappeared.

The plane's transponder, the instrument that communicates with ground radar, appeared to be shut down as it crossed from Malaysian to Vietnamese airspace over the South China Sea. Initial investigations suggested the plane came down in the Indian Ocean south west of Australia, well out of its designated flight path.

When it went down the plane was carrying 12 Malaysian crew members and 227 passengers, including seven children.

The majority of those on board were Chinese and Malaysians but it was also carrying passengers from Iran, America, Canada, Indonesia, Australia, India, France, New Zealand, Ukraine, Russia, Taiwan and the Netherlands.

Malaysia Airlines said four passengers who checked in for the flight did not show up at the airport on the day.

'Most expensive search in history'

The search for MH370 is thought to be the most expensive ever conducted.

The mystery over its last location has lead to a vast search area of nearly three million square miles being designated.

Since then Malaysian, Australian and Chinese teams have carried out underwater searches spanning 46,000 square miles in the southern Indian Ocean and found nothing.

(Source: The Telegraph)

Syrian government seizes last rebel enclave in northern Homs

Syrian state media says government troops have full control of the last rebel enclave in Syria's largest province following the evacuation of thousands of armed men and civilians.

A Syrian security officer tells Al-Ikhbariya TV on Tuesday from the northern countryside of Homs province that police began deploying in the area, restoring government control. The unnamed officer told the station "we have chased terrorism out of Homs province."

Rebels were in control of northern rural Homs for years. Earlier this month, they agreed to surrender the enclave to the government, amid a string of rebel capitulations elsewhere.

Since then, more than 27,000 civilians and armed men evacuated the area to rebel-held areas in northern Syria.

A group of U.S.-backed rebels have a base in southern Homs near the border with Iraq.

(Source: AP)

Taliban attacks Farah city in west Afghanistan



Taliban insurgents launched attacks from multiple directions on the capital of Farah province in western Afghanistan near the border with Iran early Tuesday, killing and wounding "dozens" of security forces, a local official said.

Fared Bakhtawer, head of the provincial council, said several security checkpoints in the city of Farah were overrun by Taliban fighters and that an intense gun battle was ongoing.

Bakhtawer said casualties were high among security forces, but couldn't provide a precise number.

"Security checkpoints around the city have collapsed in the hands of the Taliban, causing high casualties among security forces," he said.

Meanwhile, Abdul Basir Salangi, provincial governor, confirmed heavy fighting in the city. "An intense battle is going on in the city," he said without providing additional details.

Local reporters say the city is empty and shops, schools and government offices are closed as people have hidden inside their houses. Mohammad Sarwar Osmani, a lawmaker from Farah province, said strategic security checkpoints around the city were overrun by Taliban and the insurgents were near police headquarters and the governor's offices.

Zabihullah Mujahid, a Taliban spokesman, claimed responsibility. He said fighters launched attacks form multiple directions, after which they overran several checkpoints in the city. Farah borders Helmand province, where the Taliban controls several districts.

The Afghan Defense Ministry said in a statement Tuesday that Afghan security forces were able to repel their attacks.

In recent months, Farah province has been the site of many battles between Afghan security forces and Taliban insurgents. Local officials as well as tribal elders requested additional forces from the central government and more security from the province.

(Source: AP)

Russia inches towards making observation of U.S. sanctions a crime

Russian lawmakers unanimously approved in its first reading on Tuesday a bill that makes it a criminal offense to observe sanctions imposed by the United States or other countries, as part of counter-sanctions measures against Washington.

The United States last month imposed sanctions on some of Russia's biggest companies and businessmen, striking at allies of President Vladimir Putin to punish Moscow for its alleged meddling in the 2016 U.S. presidential election and other "malign activities".

The draft bill, which will have its second reading on Thursday, would make refusing to supply services or do business with a Russian citizen, citing U.S. or other sanctions, a crime punishable by up to four years in jail.

Any person or representatives of legal entities in Russia found guilty of such an offense could also face other limits on their freedom or fines of up to 600,000 rubles (\$9,696).

The bill would also make it a criminal offense for Russian citizens to help foreign governments sanction Russia by providing advice or information.

That offense would be punishable by up to three years in jail or other restrictions on an individual's freedom, or by a fine of up to 500,000 rubles.

Initially lawmakers vowed to impose restrictions on a wide range of goods and services from the United States, including medicine and agricultural products.

But they have since diluted the proposed counter-sanctions measures, removing language that targeted specific goods and sectors because of fears about the potential impact on Russian consumers and industries.

The draft law, which has caused concern and uncertainty among investors in Russian assets, is likely to be changed in subsequent readings before it is signed by Putin.

Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev last month voiced support for the initiative and pledged that the government would help companies targeted by U.S. sanctions.

(Source: Reuters)

Ex-FBI agent caught teaching police Islamophobic ideas

An Islamophobic former FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) agent, who provides counterterrorism training to members of the United States law enforcement, has been secretly filmed telling police officers that Muslim students at American universities pose a threat of "jihad" and that a prominent civil rights group is a front for "terrorist" organizations.

During the training event, John Guandolo - a conspiracy theorist who has stated publicly that Muslim Americans should not have the same rights as other citizens - also told our reporter that he was in direct and regular contact with Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

As he was being secretly filmed in Maricopa County, Arizona, Guandolo said: "I was speaking three or four times a week with Jeff Sessions up to the election and after the election, before the inauguration."

"And I said, 'Sir, you gotta give me three or four hours.'"

"[He said,] 'John, I know.'"

"I said, because what's going to happen is as soon as you go into [the Department of Justice], you're going to be in a tornado."

Sessions serves under the U.S. President Donald Trump, who himself has been criticized for stoking anti-Muslim sentiment.

Guandolo's claim demonstrates how the

Islamophobia network - a well-funded circle of organizations and individuals propagating anti-Muslim racism - has reached its tentacles into the halls of power in Washington, DC.

Guandolo resigned from the FBI in 2008 when he faced an investigation into his professional conduct.

During his lecture, he proposed several theories, including a claim that Muslim student associations in Arizona were "recruiting" people to "jihad".

He said the Council for American Islamic Relations (CAIR) was a "front for the Muslim Brotherhood", and compared the Muslim advocacy and civil rights group to Hamas, the Palestinian party designated by the U.S. as a "terrorist" organization.

Guandolo's team also used execution videos by the Islamic state in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorists to explain the concept of Islamic law to police officers.

"He is a snake oil salesman, this stuff is toxic," said Congressman Keith Ellison. "You don't want a law enforcement community infected with these hateful ideas because they do have the power to deploy deadly force."

Guandolo refused Al Jazeera's request for comment.

Rising Islamophobia in the United States comes as the number of anti-Muslim groups in the country has tripled over the past three

years, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Islamophobia Inc. enjoys multimillion-dollar funding, and Al Jazeera has traced the secretive donors who bankroll the movement.

In financial documents seen by Al Jazeera, millions of dollars were provided by anonymous donor funds. So-called dark money is given to these groups by front organizations, while the real donor remains hidden.

One of the largest Islamophobic groups, which says it works to protect "national security", is ACT for America. Launched in 2007 by Brigitte Gabriel, it claims to have more than 750,000 members.

Internal documents reveal that ACT encourages its followers to spy on Muslims by monitoring their local mosques and taking courses in Middle East studies at universities because the department has "a real likelihood of being funded by the Saudis and will have professors who are generally pro-Sharia, anti-America and anti-Israel".

Another group, the Centre for Security Policy, has powerful allies in Washington, DC, and is run by Frank Gaffney, a former member of President Ronald Reagan's administration.

Pamela Geller and Robert Spencer, meanwhile, lead two of the most popular websites that characterize Muslims as a threat, Geller

(Source: Al Jazeera)

STOCK MARKET

TEDPIX	94906.1
IFX	1093.61

Sources: tse.ir, Ifb.ir

CURRENCIES

USD	42039 rials
EUR	50166 rials
GBP	57010 rials
AED	11446 rials

Source: mehrnews.com

COMMODITIES

WTI	70.95/b
Brent	78.45/b
OPEC Basket	74.42/b
Gold	\$1,310.4 /oz
Silver	\$16.46/oz
Platinum	\$909.30/oz

Sources: oilprice.com, Moneymetals.com

NEWS IN BRIEF



Iran-China
3-month trade up
11% yr/yr

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The value of trade between Iran and China during the first quarter of 2018 reached \$9.98 billion, with 11 percent rise from the figure of the same period of time in the past year, Tasnim news agency reported on Tuesday citing the data released by China's Customs. Iran-China trade stood at \$8.99 billion during the first three months of 2017.

China's exports to Iran increased 4.5 percent in the first quarter of 2018, while its imports from the country rose 16.6 percent, mainly due to the rise in oil price.



S. Korea's April
Iranian crude oil
imports stand at
1.24m tons

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — South Korea shipped in 1.24 million tons of Iranian crude, or 303,025 barrels per day (bpd), in April, down 12.1 percent from last year's 1.41 million tons in the same month, Reuters reported citing customs data.

According to Reuters' sources, South Korea's crude oil imports have fallen this year, partly reflecting a cut in supplies to South Korea by the National Iranian Oil Company due to lower production and the start of a new splitter.

The world's fifth-biggest crude oil importer increased its imports of Iranian crude, mainly condensate, or an ultra-light oil since sanctions were lifted in 2016.

In the first four months of this year, South Korea's intake of Iranian oil dropped 34 percent to 4.69 million tons, or 286,308 bpd, versus about 7.1 million tons over the same period a year ago, the data showed.

Europe seriously determined
to continue economic co-op
with Iran: Bulgarian min.

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Bulgarian Minister of Economy Emil Karanikolov said his country and Europe are seriously determined to continue their economic cooperation with Iran.

The European official made the remarks in an Iran-Bulgaria business forum held at the place of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) in Tehran on Monday, ICCIMA portal reported.



ICCIMA Chairman Gholam-Hossein Shafe'i (R) and Bulgarian Minister of Economy Emil Karanikolov in an Iran-Bulgaria business forum in Tehran on Monday

The minister, whose country holds the presidency of the European Union Council, said Bulgarian government as well as businessmen and traders are keen on cooperation with Iran and holding such forums can be a good opportunity to expand bilateral cooperation.

He further underlined that the value of trade between Iran and Bulgaria has increased 14 percent to \$117.4 million in 2017 from 2016.

ICCIMA Chairman Gholam-Hossein Shafe'i, for his part, referred to the nineteenth meeting of Iran-Bulgaria Joint Economic Committee which is scheduled to be held this year and said some memorandums of understandings are planned to be signed between the two sides chambers of commerce in that meeting.

He further highlighted Iran's rich resources of energy as well as its high potential in transportation, ports, agriculture, banking and tourism and Bulgaria's vast capabilities in the fields of chemical materials and medicine as well as machinery and commented that all these potentials and capabilities provide good opportunities for cooperation between the two countries.

Iran's 1st floating
solar farm project
launched

ENERGY **TEHRAN** — The project for building the first floating solar farm of Iran was launched in the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan on Monday, IRIB reported.

The groundbreaking ceremony of the project in Zahak City was attended by Sorena Sattari, the vice president for science and technology.

Speaking in the ceremony, Sattari noted

that the 7-megawatt solar farm is going to be constructed on an area of 14 hectares and €8.5 million has been allocated for completing the project.

According to Iranian Deputy Energy Minister Homayoon Haeri, Iran's current solar and wind farms capacity stands at 400 megawatts (MW) and the figure will increase to 1.4 gigawatts (GW) in the next Iranian calendar year (March 2018-March 2019).



Renewables, including hydropower, account for just six percent of energy generation, versus natural gas' 90 percent share.

Overall, in the next five years, Iran is aiming for a 5,000 MW increase in renewable capacity to meet growing domestic demand and expand its presence on the regional electricity market.

Doha hosts Iran-Qatar
business forum

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — An Iran-Qatar business forum attended by a number of Iranian and Qatari traders and businessmen was held in Qatar's capital Doha on Monday.

Addressing the forum, Hossein Pir-Moazzen, a board member of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), who headed the Iranian participants, referred to the negotiations made during the sixth meeting of Iran-Qatar Joint Economic Committee, which was held in Doha on Sunday and Monday, and said establishment of preferential tariffs between the two sides, facilitation of banking ties, facilitation of visa issuance for the two sides' businessmen, and cooperation in transportation and transit as some important issues discussed during the meeting.

Muhammed Bin Ahmed Bin Towar Al Kuwari, the vice chairman of Qatar Chamber of Commerce, for his part,



expressed the willingness of Qatari traders for business with Iran and said necessary condition is ready for the expansion of bilateral cooperation.

A 70-membre delegation of Iranian traders and businessmen headed by Deputy Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Mohammadreza Fayyaz arrived in Doha on Sunday to attend the sixth meeting of Iran-Qatar Joint Economic Committee.

The previous meeting of the joint economic committee had been held some 13 years ago.

German economic growth slows more than forecast in first quarter

Germany's economy grew at the weakest pace in more than a year at the start of 2018, part of a slowdown across the euro area that the European Central Bank says may prove temporary.

The 0.3 percent expansion in the first quarter was weaker than economists had forecast and just half the pace seen in the final three months of 2017. The statistics office said growth in the first quarter was driven by domestic demand, with trade losing momentum. From a year earlier, adjusted gross domestic product rose 2.3 percent.

A similar deceleration has been recorded in the euro zone, with growth cooling to 0.4 percent from 0.7 percent.

The slowdown in Europe's biggest economy is further confirmation that the region had a sluggish start to the

year, a development already apparent in business surveys and other indicators. Yet ECB officials have dismissed it as a combination of factors such as a flu epidemic and colder weather and expect it to dissipate in the course of the year.

Speaking on Monday, ECB Governing Council member Francois Villeroy de Galhau said growth remains solid and broad-based and that policy makers were still likely to halt asset purchases this year. The European Commission has also indicated it's not overly concerned and this month maintained its forecast that full-year growth will almost match the decade-high pace hit in 2017.

Still, threats ranging from trade tensions to higher oil prices and market volatility could act as a brake. Olli Rehn, the deputy governor of the Bank of Finland, said Monday

that risks to the medium-term outlook "seem to be tilted on the downside." The International Monetary Fund will update its view of Europe's economy later on Tuesday.

The Bundesbank also remains optimistic, saying that record orders should boost German output in the coming months. Just last week, Siemens AG raised its outlook for full-year earnings, and HeidelbergCement AG said the economic upswing will boost construction activity in its major markets after a long winter held back first-quarter results.

In China, data on Tuesday showed economic momentum broadly held up in April with industrial production exceeding forecasts, though slowing investment signaled a moderation in the coming months. Retail sales also rose less than expected.

(Source: Bloomberg)

Asia stocks pull back after soft China data; oil higher

Asian stocks pulled back on Tuesday, brushing off a firmer lead from Wall Street, as investors turned cautious after soft Chinese economic data and awaited fresh developments on U.S.-China trade talks and North Korea.

Crude oil prices held near 3-1/2-year highs on supply concerns, while the dollar edged higher, underpinned by a rise in U.S. bond yields.

Spreadbetters expected European stocks to follow their Asian peers lower, with Britain's FTSE, Germany's DAX and France's CAC all seen shedding 0.2 percent.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan fell 0.8 percent after rising the previous day to its highest since late March. The index had rallied for three straight sessions prior to Tuesday.

Japan's Nikkei dipped 0.1 percent, with its surge to a three-month peak bogging down.

"The markets appear to be taking a breather after their recent surge, awaiting fresh developments in matters such as U.S.-China trade issues and Washington's upcoming summit with North Korea," said Yoshinori Shigemori, global markets strategist at JP Morgan Asset Management in Tokyo.

The two countries are still "very far apart" on resolving trade frictions, U.S. Ambassador

to China Terry Branstad said on Tuesday as a second round of high-level talks was set to begin in Washington.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng lost 0.9 percent, pulling back from a two-month peak to snap a five-day winning run, while Shanghai slipped 0.2 percent.

China reported weaker-than-expected investment and retail sales in April and a drop in home sales, clouding its economic outlook even as policymakers try to navigate debt risks and defuse a heated trade row with the United States.

The downbeat economic news temporarily offset optimism over further foreign inflows into Chinese stocks ahead of their inclusion in MSCI's widely tracked equity benchmarks from June 1.

Investors in Chinese equities will likely have to re-jig their exposure after the U.S. index publisher made some last-minute tweaks in its index weightings on Tuesday. MSCI said 234 Chinese large caps will be included in its global and regional indexes next month.

Wall Street scraped out gains on Monday after weakness in defensive stocks offset optimism following U.S. President Donald Trump's conciliatory remarks toward China's

ZTE Corp that helped calm U.S.-China trade tensions.

While higher oil prices sometimes raise inflation concerns, the recent crude oil surge - Brent has risen 17 percent so far in 2018 - was seen to be generally supportive for equities.

"The recent rise in prices of crude oil won't have a broadly negative impact on equity markets if it continues at the current pace," said Masahiro Ichikawa, senior strategist at Sumitomo Mitsui Asset Management in Tokyo.

"The rise in oil prices is boding well for certain stock sectors like energy shares."

Brent crude added 6 cents to \$78.29 a barrel, nearing a 3-1/2-year high marked on Monday. U.S. crude oil futures advanced 2 cents to \$70.98 and in reach of its highest level since November 2014 scaled on Thursday.

Oil prices received their latest lift as OPEC reported that the global oil glut has been virtually eliminated. Tensions in the Middle East and uncertainty about output from Iran amid renewed U.S. sanctions have contributed to the recent rise in oil prices.

"The commitment of Saudi Arabia and the rest of OPEC to the production cuts is a major factor in supporting the price at the moment as well as the possibility of reduced

exports from Iran due to sanctions," said William O'Loughlin, investment analyst at Rivkin Securities.

In currencies, the dollar index against a basket of six major currencies gained 0.3 percent to 92.801.

The greenback took a knock against the euro earlier on Monday after European Central Bank policymaker Francois Villeroy de Galhau said the ECB could give fresh timing guidance of its first rate hike as the end of its exceptional bond purchases approaches.

The U.S. currency managed to bounce back, however, after Cleveland Federal Reserve President Loretta Mester reiterated support for gradual interest rate increases.

The euro lost 0.1 percent to \$1.1913 after pulling back sharply from the previous day's high of \$1.1996.

The dollar was 0.25 percent higher at 109.920 yen, adding to the previous day's gains.

The currency drew support as U.S. Treasury yields rose amid the easing of U.S.-China trade tensions.

The 10-year Treasury note yield extended its overnight rise and brushed a 12-day high of 3.021 percent.

(Source: Reuters)

Xi's envoy, Trump trade team to meet



week it would suspend major operations following last month's move by Washington to ban U.S. companies from selling certain computer chips to the Chinese company until 2025.

The U.S. has accused ZTE of violating laws by illegally shipping U.S. goods to Iran and breaching a deal reached last year. ZTE has appealed.

ZTE says the ban would "severely impact the survival

and development" of the company, which depends on U.S. companies to supply about a quarter of its technology components.

"I see this as a positive step and hope it will create a better atmosphere for the ongoing discussions between the two countries," said Henry Levine, a former U.S. deputy assistant secretary of commerce. "I hope Beijing can respond with a positive step of its own and hope that both Beijing and Washington can begin a ... process where each takes positive steps and the other one responds with its own positive steps," he said.

Eswar Prasad, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and a former China division chief at the International Monetary Fund, said the move of the Trump administration sets the stage for a temporary de-escalation of trade tensions between the two countries.

"It bodes well for the upcoming visit by Liu He to Washington and suggests that an agreement can be reached that allows both sides to claim at least a partial victory," he said. Zhou Jin contributed to this story.

(Source: China Daily)

Oil holds gains as markets tighten amid OPEC cuts

Oil prices held firm on Tuesday as ongoing production cuts by OPEC and looming U.S. sanctions against Iran tightened the market amid signs of ongoing strong demand.

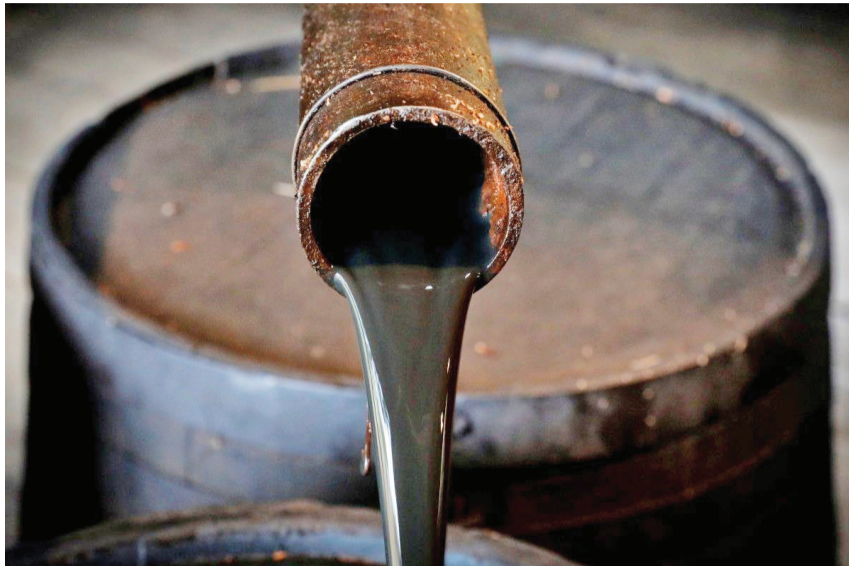
Brent crude futures, the international benchmark for oil prices, were at \$78.30 per barrel at 0432 GMT, up 7 cents from their last close and not far off a three-and-a-half year high of \$78.53 a barrel reached the previous session.

U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures were at \$71.02 a barrel, up 6 cents and also not far off their Nov. 2014 high of \$71.89 a barrel reached last week.

Markets have generally tightened as the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), led by Saudi Arabia, has been withholding supplies since 2017 in order to push up oil prices.

With renewed U.S. sanctions looming against OPEC-member Iran, analysts said crude prices were well supported.

"The commitment of Saudi Arabia and the



OPEC: the oil glut is gone

OPEC said that the global oil supply surplus has nearly been eliminated, although the group is shifting its sights on lack of investment in upstream supply.

In OPEC's May Oil Market Report, the group noted that non-OPEC supply continues to grow at a rapid rate, adding 0.87 million barrels per day (mb/d) in 2017, with expectations of another 1.7 mb/d in 2018, 89 percent of which will come from the U.S. In fact, non-OPEC supply is expected to outpace demand growth, even though demand will expand by a robust 1.65 mb/d this year.

But OPEC also warned that "non-OPEC capital expenditure (CAPEX), including exploration, increased by only 2 percent year on year. Moreover, it has seen a decline of around 42 percent compared to the 2014 level." While that seems like a bit of a throw-away line given the enormous production increases from U.S. shale, the focus on upstream investment has been a growing point of emphasis for OPEC as it grapples with how to respond to a tightening oil market.

Commercial stocks were only 9 million barrels above the five-year average in March, which is to say, stocks are probably already below the five-year average at this point. That means that OPEC has achieved its goal of shrinking the supply surplus.

That would suggest that the group begins to unwind the production cuts at its upcoming meeting in June, but there has been a reluctance to do so. Saudi Arabia is aiming for higher oil prices ahead of the IPO of Saudi Aramco, expected at some point in 2019.

Keeping the cuts in place for the remainder of 2018 (OPEC's initial preference) would seem to require another justification now that inventories are back to the five-year average. Raising alarms about lack of upstream investment could offer such a pretext.

Moreover, OPEC noted that heady projections about U.S. shale growth are not without downside risk. U.S. shale could fail to deliver on aggressive growth

figures for several reasons. "The continued strong development of the world economy could lead to rising inflation, and, along with potential trade restrictions, would impact oil production costs," OPEC said. "In addition, fast-growing U.S. tight oil production is increasingly faced with costly logistical constraints in terms of outtake capacity from land-locked production sites."

The Permian basin continues to add new supply at a torrid pace, but with pipelines just about filled up, further gains could be harder to come by than the forecasts suggest. Also, investors are increasingly demanding profits returned to them, forcing a new era of capital discipline. Oil companies that have announced spending increases have been punished by Wall Street over the past year, while those that have returned cash to shareholders in the form of share buybacks and dividend hikes have been rewarded. Spending restraint could lead to more modest growth, although that remains to be seen. Meanwhile, the U.S. decision to scrap the

rest of OPEC to the production cuts is a major factor in supporting the price at the moment as well as the possibility of reduced exports from Iran due to sanctions," said William O'Loughlin, investment analyst at Rivkin Securities.

The OPEC cuts and looming sanctions come amid strong demand.

In China, the world's biggest oil importer, refinery runs rose nearly 12 percent in April compared with the same month a year ago, to around 12.06 million barrels per day, marking the second-highest level on record on a daily basis, data showed on Tuesday.

The tightening market has all but eliminated a global supply overhang which depressed crude prices between late 2014 and early 2017.

OPEC figures published on Monday showed that oil inventories in OECD industrialized nations in March fell to 9 million barrels above the five-year average, down from 340 million barrels above the average in January 2017.

(Source: Reuters)

Iran nuclear deal looms over the oil market and OPEC's deliberations. Any supply outage could force OPEC off of the sidelines, whether they want to act or not. In that sense, the cartel might be compelled to make changes to the deal to allow for more supply in the event of declining shipments from Iran.

OPEC and Russian officials have intimated that they would not let a supply outage rattle the market. "It is too early to say [what the impact of the U.S. decision on the oil market will be]. In any case, we have all the tools that could be used to balance the market," Russia's energy minister Alexander Novak said. In OPEC's monthly report, the group also stated that it "stands ready to support oil market stability, together with non-OPEC oil producing nations" participating in the agreement.

OPEC added a minor 12,000 bpd between April and March, with the loss of 41,000 bpd from Venezuela offset by the 46,500 bpd increase from Saudi Arabia.

(Source: oilprice.com)

China refinery runs hit 2nd-highest mark, lifted by quotas, margins

China's refinery runs rose nearly 12 percent in April compared with the same month a year ago, hitting the second-highest level on record on a daily basis, buoyed by generous government quotas and healthy refining margins, data showed on Tuesday.

April throughput grew to 49.58 million tons, 11.5 percent higher than in the same month last year, according to data released by the National Statistical Bureau on Tuesday, equivalent to 12.06 million barrels per day (bpd) - a touch below an all-time high of 12.13 million bpd in March.

Production in the first four months of the year totaled 199.12 million tons, up 9.1 percent from a year ago, according to the National Statistical Bureau. On a daily basis, average January-April runs stood at a near-record of 12.1 million bpd.

"The rapid growth in crude runs was due to big increases in crude oil import quotas and refined fuel export quotas," the bureau said in a statement.

Li Yan, analyst with Shandong-based Longzhong Information Group said the hefty refinery production level showed plants have been ramping up output on healthy margins, as the cargoes that arrived last month were purchased at a much lower price.

Global benchmark Brent crude futures have climbed to multi-year highs above \$78 on Tuesday, bolstered by jitters about disrupted Middle East oil supply after the United States scrapped a 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

"Independent refiners have also become defter in risk control - engaging in more hedging activities when prices were lower," said Li.

The lofty run levels came despite planned overhauls at a few state-run oil plants in April. More maintenance at both state-owned and independent plants are expected from May.

Refineries that shut in April include Sinopec's Tahe and Anqing refineries, and PetroChina's Sichuan refinery.

April's domestic crude oil production fell 2.3 percent from the same month a year ago to 15.51 million tons, or 3.774 million bpd, slightly higher than March's 3.76 million bpd.

Year-to-date output was 62.25 million tons, down 2.1 percent from January-April last year.

(Source: Reuters)

Iraq invites bids to build oil refinery in Diwaniya

Investors interested in bidding to build a 70,000 barrel-per-day oil refinery in Diwaniya south of Baghdad have until July 31 to make offers, the Iraqi oil ministry said in a statement on Tuesday.

The refinery is one of several crude oil processing projects offered by Iraq as part of a plan to become self-sufficient in oil products.

Iraq is the second-largest crude oil producer in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries after Saudi Arabia.

(Source: Reuters)

60 YEARS OF ADVENTURE
AND DISCOVERY

SARMAN Co.

TEL +98 21 22 61 37 52



superOcean
HERITAGE
SINCE 1957



INSTRUMENTS FOR PROFESSIONALS™

The world according to Trump

Maybe the president really believes that allies, values and institutions are for losers. But it's the U.S. that will lose.

President Donald Trump recently wrapped up a three-week whirlwind of summitry, meeting with the leaders of Japan, France and Germany. If his visitors found the experience bewildering, who can blame them?

In the past few months the president has repudiated much of what the U.S. once believed about international relations. He's advocated trade war as an instrument of policy. And he's brought a jarring new approach to dealing with other governments — friendly and unfriendly — by means of a torrent of insults and flattery, threats and inducements.



In the world according to Trump, the president knows what he's doing, and it's working just fine. Be the bully and keep them guessing. Apply this to allies as well as rivals — because in the end what's the difference? Disdain institutions that the U.S. spent decades building — because what did they ever do for us? In the real world, this approach will prove enormously damaging to the country, as well as to America's friends.

Chaotic in one way, Trump's maneuvers do have a certain consistency. By inveighing against the supposed dangers of immigration, scuppering the TPP, threatening to withdraw from the Iran nuclear agreement and Nafta, and slamming NATO and the UN as bad deals, he's doing what he told voters he would. In their White House meetings, French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel got cold comfort on Iran and trade. In Mar-a-Lago, Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe got nowhere in trying to woo Trump back into the TPP. The president's supporters aren't complaining.

And it's true that Trump's bully-and-confuse method has achieved some results. He's won a few concessions on trade. He's mustered stiffer sanctions against North Korea that have prompted "Little Rocket Man" to talk (all too vaguely) of peace and denuclearization. He's pushed America's NATO partners to raise their defense spending a notch. There might be more such wins, as other governments play for time and struggle to adapt — but be under no illusions about the risk this style of foreign policy is taking.

Trump's art of the diplomatic deal typically pursues a narrow unilateral gain by linking it to threats of reprisal with far broader implications. He tells Mexico: Pay for the wall or no Nafta. He signals to South Korea: Give way on trade, or the U.S. might draw down its forces. This approach widens areas of disagreement and, as a result, destabilizes arrangements that have long worked to America's advantage.

It's deliberate: The president's zero-sum thinking leads him to see alliances and institutions as essentially exploitative. But this view is deeply misguided. Interaction with other countries isn't zero-sum. In economic and security matters alike, the cooperative pursuit of mutual interests under U.S. leadership gave the West decades of relative peace and prosperity after 1945. Today's challenges are different, but the logic of cooperation hasn't changed.

Alliances and institutions provide stability and predictability. Sustaining them requires shared interests and a reputation for keeping your word. The president opposes these things on principle. Instead, he believes in division — in driving wedges. He once boasted, "I know more about wedges than any human being that's ever lived." (That sounds correct.)

Driving wedges and bullying allies can work for a while but in the end will backfire. Japan worries that Trump's focus on the U.S.-Japan trade deficit will lead him to discount its concerns on North Korea. (As one Japanese analyst put it, "[With] this president, if your ally is in trouble, it might suggest that this is a good time for him to exploit this ally.") So Japan is moving forward in security talks with China and on trade with the European Union. Following Trump's threats to Nafta, Mexico is deepening its partnership with the EU. These responses weaken the U.S.

In the worst case, Trump's plans to impose tariffs on the EU and China could spark a ruinous trade war. A precipitate pullout from the Iran nuclear deal could trigger a crisis. And Trump's moves on North Korea could end in new extremes of nuclear brinkmanship. In each case, there's no Plan B without the backing of the allies and institutions Trump is undermining; in each case, it would have been better to act multilaterally in the first place.

On China's treatment of intellectual property, it would be better to join forces with the EU and Japan, and act through the WTO. In dealing with Kim, the U.S. is stronger if it can draw on support from South Korea, Japan, China and Russia, and other members of the UN Security Council — each of them, again, acting in their own best interests. Fighting climate change and other global ills is far more effective if done with partners.

For the moment, at least, the president seems deaf to these arguments. Others must take up the burden, as far as they can.

Congress should vet the president's national-security nominees promptly and thoroughly. Congress should pass a new authorization for the use of military force that restores its oversight powers. And given the president's effort to bend or break the rules of global trade, Congress should consider withholding his authority to conclude trade deals (which expires this July) while resolving to block initiatives that restrict trade rather than expand it.

America's allies must also step up — to defend the U.S.-built international order that has served them so well. By now Merkel has learned the limits of lecturing Trump; Abe and Macron have learned the limits of flattering him. What's needed instead is a firm and collective defense of the institutions that have governed international relations for more than the past half-century. Where possible, to be sure, build on those arrangements and bring them up to date — with or without the U.S. But for your own sake as well as America's, don't stand by as Trump lets them fall.

(Source: Bloomberg)

Gaza shootings: stop killing unarmed civilians



Channeling a reckless Donald Trump, Israeli ministers appear to have adopted a dangerous mindset: to destroy the national aspirations of the Palestinians by military force.

of refugees, settlements and borders, the status of Jerusalem is unfinished business. No state is internationally recognized as having sovereignty over Jerusalem. Its status was meant to be determined through negotiations.

In siding with Israel Trump signaled the end of any presence that his administration might be an honest broker in the conflict. Any peace talks overseen by Trump's team are likely to fail before they begin. The U.S. president

will learn what happens when the facts he has created on the ground collide with reality. What will happen to the 300,000 Palestinians living in east Jerusalem? Are they all to be herded into enclaves and deprived of their human rights, their land confiscated? Will this be done because of the "truth, peace and justice" that Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel believed in as he welcomed the U.S. ambassador to Jerusalem? Trump and Netanyahu have galvanized a people who had been steeped in despair.

In taking Jerusalem off the table, the only inviolable demand Palestinians feel they have left is the right of return. Palestinians see the flight or expulsion of refugees at the time of the creation of Israel 70 years ago this week as their catastrophe or nakba.

The issue is now on the lips of every Palestinian. The conflict in the Holy Land is not a zero-sum game, where there is just one winner. The opposite is more likely to be true. Either both will fail — and continue with one civilian population humiliating and terrorizing the other. Or they find a way to live side by side in two states, one that affords each people their own independence and security. If happily such an outcome was achieved, it would make sense for west Jerusalem to be the capital of Israel and east Jerusalem to be the Palestinian capital. This is obvious to everyone but Trump and Netanyahu, who instead have capitulated to a vision of brutal domination over a benighted people.

(Source: The Guardian)

Post-Brexit, the UK will need Turkey

By Kim Sengupta

There is a very good reason why Recep Tayyip Erdogan chose Britain as the destination for his high-profile foreign visit before the election he has called back home. There is little chance of Theresa May's government embarrassing him by saying or doing anything about the sorry state of human rights in Turkey and the tens of thousands imprisoned.

There have been calls in London by opposition groups, lawyers and campaigners for the Turkish president to be brought to account, as well as protests outside a think tank, Chatham House, where he spoke on Monday morning. But there have also been gatherings of flag-waving supporters organized by the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP), the country's embassy and groups from Britain's large Turkish expatriate community.

Erdogan, who will be meeting the prime minister and the Queen, has declared that Britain is "an ally and a strategic partner, but also a real friend ... The cooperation we have is well beyond any mechanism that we have established with other partners." Turkey's president pointed out that the UK was among the first to condemn the attempted coup in July 2016 blamed on the exiled cleric Fethullah Gulen. A British minister visited Turkey soon afterwards: it was the kind of "solidarity that will not be forgotten", he said.

But then, tellingly, he added: "We are very ready to cooperate with the UK post-Brexit in every field ... I see the strategic partnership between Turkey and the UK as a necessity, rather than a simple choice, for the interests of the two countries." It is a theme he has visited many times, saying in one recent speech: "The UK will need trade after Brexit, and rest assured Turkey is willing to help."

The British government is certainly keen to focus on trade, rather than controversial political issues. Theresa May's visit to Turkey in January 2017 — at the time when the Erdogan government was facing severe criticism over civil rights abuse following the failed putsch — was really all about trade. After meeting Erdogan, she said: "You mentioned, Mr President, the opportunities for enhancing the trade between our two countries and we



have discussed that. I believe doing so will be to the benefit of both our countries and for the prosperity of both our nations."

One of the benefits for Britain is a \$135m (£99m) deal under which BAE Systems develops fighter jets for the Turkish Air Force. There is hope that Rolls-Royce will win the contract to build the engines and a number of other companies will also benefit. The aspiration is that this will lead to sustained cooperation and contracts with Turkey's military.

Trade between Turkey and UK currently stand at \$16bn; Erdogan has declared that he wants to raise this to \$20bn in the next few years. The UK doubled its export finance program for Turkey last year to almost \$5bn, and there are plans to increase cooperation on energy, healthcare, manufacturing and defense.

With Britain facing an uncertain economic future after leaving the European Union and the specter of a "hard Brexit" looming, these figures could be deemed to be more important rather than ones more inconvenient such as 140,000 people detained and 152,000 dismissed from their posts. Among those jailed are teachers, doctors, lawyers, judges, military and police and 254 journalists — the largest number of members of the media jailed anywhere in the world.

There is an element of irony in this stance of a British

Turkey's chances of getting into the European Union remain slim after years of efforts, although there was a pronouncement from Johnson, bizarre even by his standards, during a visit to Ankara as foreign secretary, that the UK would fully back Turkey's application to join even after it left the EU itself.

Iraqi election results shock political class

By Ali Momouri

Iraq's Independent High Electoral Commission announced the preliminary results of the May 12 parliamentary elections on May 13. The announcement of the final results has been delayed due to disputes between political parties.

Turnout was very low at only 44.52% — the lowest of all post-2003 elections. Participation was 79% in 2015, 62.4% in 2010 and 60% in 2014. The low numbers are likely a sign of public anger at the entire political class, as people have grown sick of its constant failure to provide them with adequate services and political and economic reform.

Despite some skirmishes in Sulaimaniyah and some objections in Kirkuk over the counting and sorting of ballots, the election saw very little violence.

The Gorran (Change) Movement strongly objected to alleged violations by the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. Meanwhile, the Al-Wataniya Coalition led by Iyad Allawi called for a redo of the vote while keeping the current government as caretaker government due to

"the Iraqis' large abstention from voting and the committed acts of violence and fraud."

At a press conference, the commission shared the preliminary results for 10 out of Iraq's 18 provinces. Overall, the Sairoon Alliance made up of the Sadrist Movement and the Communist Party is leading, followed by the Fatah Alliance, which includes the Popular Mobilization Units. Al-Nasr led by Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi came in third.

The auditing process is ongoing in Erbil, Sulaimaniyah, Najaf, Dahuk, Salahuddin, Kirkuk, Maysan and Ninevah.

In Baghdad, 95% of the polling stations were reporting at the time of the announcement. The Sairoon Alliance was the front-runner with 413,638 votes, followed by the Fatah Alliance with 233,299 and the State of Law Coalition led by former Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki with 211,243.

The Al-Wataniya Coalition won 204,686 votes and the Al-Nasr Alliance got 194,676. The Iraqi Decision Alliance led by former parliament Speaker Osama al-Nujaifi and supported by controversial businessman Khamis al-Khanjar won 94,308 votes, followed by the

Al-Hekma Movement led by Ammar al-Hakim with 91,039 votes.

In most of the rest of the reporting provinces, 97% of polling stations had reported their tallies at the time of the preliminary announcement. In Wasit province, the Sairoon Alliance won 94,241 votes, followed by the Fatah Alliance with 86,480, Al-Nasr with 51,031, the Al-Hekma Movement with 49,963, the State of Law Coalition with 41,551, Kafat Lil Taghyeer with 35,741 and the Al-Wataniya Coalition with 7,266.

In Al-Muthanna province, Sairoon Alliance ranked first with 62,968 votes, followed by Al-Fatah with 42,488, Al-Hekma with 33,358, Al-Nasr with 33,307 and the State of Law Coalition at 27,465.

In Dhi Qar province, the Sairoon Alliance came in first with 146,000 votes, followed by Al-Fatah with 110,000, Al-Nasr with 76,000, the State of Law Coalition with 75,000, the Al-Hekma Movement with 52,000, the Irada Movement with 18,000 and Al-Wataniya with 12,000.

In the province of Karbala, with 97% of stations reporting, Al-Fatah got 70,777 votes, followed by the Sairoon Alliance with 69,975,

Al-Nasr with 48,349, the State of Law Coalition with 34,479, the Al-Hekma Movement with 19,010 and Al-Wataniya with 6,852.

In the province of Diwaniyah, Al-Fatah received 82,310 votes, followed by the Sairoon Alliance with 68,011, Al-Nasr with 55,427, the Al-Hekma Movement with 39,728, the State of Law Coalition with 38,861, the Civil Coalition with 6,109 and Al-Wataniya with 4,472.

In Babil province, Al-Fatah won first place with 122,728 votes, followed by 114,179 for the Sairoon Alliance, 83,528 for the Al-Nasr List, 71,635 for the Al-Hekma Movement, 56,649 for the State of Law Coalition, Kafat Lil Taghyeer with 31,844, the Irada Movement with 21,749 and Al-Wataniya with 15,900.

In Basra province, Al-Fatah came in first with 143,739 votes, followed by the Sairoon Alliance with 113,106, Al-Nasr with 103,209, the State of Law Coalition with 89,501, the Al-Hekma Movement with 54,626, the Men of Iraq with 24,613, the Irada Movement with 22,664, Al-Wataniya with 22,051, Building and Reform with 17,050 and the Democratic Civil Alliance with 11,489.

(Source: Al Monitor)

Israeli Gaza killings similar to Sharpeville massacre: British prof.

TEHRAN (Tasnim) — Jonathan Rosenhead, chairman of the British Committee for the Universities of Palestine, likened the recent killings of Palestinians by Israeli troops near Gaza border to the Sharpeville massacre in 1960 in South Africa.

“The casualties in Gaza are now greater than those at the Sharpeville massacre in 1960. In both cases armed security forces fired without provocation on unarmed protesters. Sharpeville was the turning point for international condemnation of the South African apartheid regime,” Professor Rosenhead told Tasnim in an interview.

Jonathan Rosenhead is Emeritus Professor of Operational Research at the London School of Economics, and Chair of the British Committee for the Universities of Palestine. In December 2010, he was appointed IFORS Distinguished Lecturer for the Association of Asia Pacific Operational Research Societies (APORS) regional conference. This honor, awarded by the International Federation of Operational Research Societies (IFORS), recognizes distinguished OR scholars.

Following is the full text of the interview.

■ As you know, a US delegation flew to Israel recently amid rising tensions ahead of planned protests against the controversial move of the American embassy to Jerusalem (al-Quds) and rallies calling for the Palestinians’ right of return to the homes from which they were expelled from in 1948. Several US officials, joined by President Donald Trump’s daughter Ivanka and her husband and senior adviser Jared Kushner, attended the opening on Monday, which coincides with the 70th anniversary of Israel’s founding. What consequences might the opening have?

A: Donald Trump has now taken a number of controversial decisions, which play to his more reactionary supporters in the US, but are nearly universally condemned by other governments. We have already seen the consequences of the embassy move today – the killing of still more unarmed demonstrators in Gaza, protesting at this move to consolidate Israel’s control over Jerusalem, which the Palestinians aspire to have as the capital of their own state. Anger against both the US and Israel have undoubtedly been stoked. One positive consequence is the evidence, sorely needed, that the Palestinian cause has not been forgotten by the outside world.

■ How would or should the world, particularly the Muslim



world, react to the move?

A: I would not dream of telling the Muslim world how it should respond. But those countries that have been quietly distancing themselves from the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinians while simultaneously making accommodations with Israel should realize that they risk alienating their own populations, who relate to the suffering of the Palestinians.

■ Do you believe that the opening of the embassy by the US would be the final nail in the coffin of Zionism in the Middle East as many experts believe?

A: No. It is going to be a long struggle. Israel has a strong economy and powerful army, and a ruthlessness in using it. So long as it has the backing of the US it will remain formidable. Let me be clear – the Jewish population in Israel will continue to live there under any conceivable future arrangement for the area. That is not negotiable. What is negotiable is the nature of the state or states in that little country, and the rights of all its peoples. Getting an end to the current violations of international and human rights law has to be at the heart of that project.

■ The United Nations General Assembly on December 21 overwhelmingly voted in favor of a resolution that calls on the US to withdraw its controversial recognition of al-Quds as the occupying regime’s capital. However, Trump did not listen and pushed ahead with the opening of the embassy. Do you think the UN did enough to stop Trump?

A: No of course not. The General Assembly has moral authority but no enforcement arm. With the Security Council blocked by the US veto, we need actions from governments, propelled by the force of civil society’s support for BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions), to show Israel that their actions have consequences.

■ According to reports, more than 50 people were killed in Gaza while Ivanka Trump and his husband were celebrating the opening. What is your take on this?

A: The casualties in Gaza are now greater than those at the Sharpeville massacre in 1960. In both cases, armed security forces fired without provocation on unarmed protesters. Sharpeville was the turning point for international condemnation of the South African apartheid regime.

Trump’s Quds move to fulfill campaign promise to wealthy Jewish donors: Former CIA officer

1 → ■ So you think JCPOA can survive without U.S.?

A: In a form I think JCPOA can continue. It depends on what the U.S. decides to do if the Germans, or the British, or the French decide to trade with Iran and if so maybe the U.S. would take steps to punish them and that is a cripple question; well it can continue but it depends on the U.S. not going after the people that are trying to trade with Iran and we don’t know right now what is going to happen.

■ What do you think about the relocation of U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem?

Do you think this move is because of “give and take” policy between the two countries or U.S. does that based on its national interests?

A: Well, the move of the embassy to Jerusalem is not for U.S. national interests. That is not the issue. The issue is Donald Trump fulfilling a promise to very wealthy Jewish contributors to his campaign. Their names are Sheldon Gary Adelson, Bernard Marcus, Paul Singer, and these people are big contributors and they are expected to be big contributors in the elections coming so Donald Trump to respond to them he also he did it because Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel wanted it and Trump is seen as someone

who listens to Netanyahu.

■ What do you think about the role of Saudi Arabia in provoking U.S. to make the decision?

A: Saudi Arabia certainly was in the decision but I think they played major role. I think even for Saudis Jerusalem is a holy spot so I think they said yes but in private and secretly.

■ How do you evaluate the role that Muslim countries can play in confronting this decision?

A: Well, Muslim countries through the organizations have already condemned this

and I think they should keep condemning it and they should put pressure on the Saudis, in particular, to join the group and make serious their complaint and also the Muslim countries that are friendly with Israel should put pressure on Israel, like Jordanians and Egyptians.

..... **Philip Giraldi is a former counter-terrorism specialist and military intelligence officer of the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and a columnist and television commentator who is the Executive Director of the Council for the National Interest.**

Zionism nothing but Racism: Canadian peace activist

1 → The Zionist movement introduced racism and discrimination against Palestinians because it sought to remove them from the land. Thus, today, we see Israeli spectators applauding the snipers along the Gaza fence as if the Palestinians were less than human. Truly, Zionism is racism!

■ Israel has rejected international calls for probes into recent deaths and insisted that its open-fire rules for Gaza will not change. Some Western states, particularly the US and Britain, who call themselves champions of human rights, have supported the Tel Aviv regime’s crimes against Palestinians. The UN has also failed to restore the rights of the people. What is your assessment? What role can Muslim countries play in protecting the rights of the oppressed people of Palestine?

A: The fact that Israel continues to get away with barbaric crimes is a function of its place in the Mideast as a nuclear-armed outpost of the US Empire. The US, its NATO allies, including unfortunately Canada, as well as the Arab monarchies give Israel a pass at the United Nations and enable it to continue its ugly apartheid existence with endless donations of money, arms, and special trade, security, and other arrangements.

But this special criminal status for Israel can be brought to an end in various ways. The current UN Special Rapporteur on Palestine, Canadian Professor Michael Lynk, has announced that, using the precedent of the former South Africa’s occupation of Namibia in 1966, he will try through the UN General Assembly, where the US has no veto, to put a legal end to Israel’s occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza. This would have the effect of turning Israel if it doesn’t comply, into a pariah nation at the United Nations and other world bodies, just as was done to apartheid South Africa in the 1980’s. Another means by which ordinary people and countries around the world can help to bring down the apartheid Zionist regime



is to support BDS. Palestinian civil society called upon the people of the world to support a program of Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions against Israel. BDS has been gathering tremendous momentum since 2005, costing Israel billions of dollars in lost revenues. Ordinary folks in Western countries can also have a big effect on the policy of their governments supporting the State of Israel. Ordinary folks should be lobbying their elected officials to end the special status Israel has in the West. They should be calling politicians to oppose the continuing illegal occupation and blockade of Gaza but rather to support the Gaza Freedom Flotilla. Elected officials should be pressured to end the charitable status of the Jewish National Fund which funnels hundreds of millions of dollars into Israel to further seize Palestinian land and distribute it to Jewish settlers. These are just a few things we could do.


■ Saudi Arabia’s crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, has recently said that Israelis “have the right to have their own land” and that formal relations between Tel Aviv and Riyadh could be mutually beneficial. Given the fact that the Saudi regime once opposed Israel’s right to exist, what do the comments signal to the

world’s public opinion? Do the remarks have an impact on the oppression against Palestinians?


A: People who support the Palestinian cause need also to recognize that the US empire has enlisted into its unholy alliance many regional Arab states, mostly despotic regimes, such as the UAE, Jordan, and most recently, Saudi Arabia, whose ‘crown prince’ has been making overtures of friendship towards Israel. These client states have been drafted into not only propping up the Zionist regime but also attacking (or preparing to attack) other targets of US imperialism such as Syria, Yemen, Lebanon, and Iran. Palestine solidarity activists should not be fooled by the phony “humanitarian intervention” disguise in which these current and projected targets are cloaked, today for example, in Syria, perhaps tomorrow, in Iran.

The struggle at the Gaza border fence today is part of centuries of a global movement against colonialism and imperialism. We must support the Palestinians. And we must also support the people of Syria, Yemen, Lebanon, and Iran, who are also targeted in the sights of the US empire, its NATO allies, and its Arabic client states. History is on our side.

Second Announcement



N.I.O.C
1397.593



National Iranian Drilling Company

Public Call Of Tender						
One-Stage						
TENDER GUARANTEE		ESTIMATED VALUE (Rial)	Subject of Tender	Tenders Portal Reg. No.	TENDER NO. / INDENT NO	No
Euro	Rial					
13,194	663,000,000	13,245,700,000	P/F “FANN” API/LPLT LOW PRESSURE FILTER PRESS, SERIES 300	3,161,141	Tender No.: FP/09-97/003 Indent No.:01-22-9646009	1

Brief description of subject:
National Iranian Drilling Company(NIDC) address pasdaran Blev., Airport Square, Ahwaz, Iran hereby intends to purchase its requirements from qualified and interested tenderers through one-stage public tender upon following terms and conditions:

A) Competence of tenderers:
The tenderers should not have legal restrictive to participation governmental to tenderers, also they should provide statute or business license related to subject of the tender.

B) Preparation of tender documents:
Purchasing of documents:
In order to receive the tender documents, **510,000 Rials** should be paid to account number 400111400420491 in central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran under the title of “centralized income funds” of National Iranian Drilling Company and providing the original deposit receipt.

Receiving of documents:
Tenderers must obtain the tender documents maximum ten days after the date of second publication till May 27, 2018 in person at the following address: Hall No.:113, 1st floor, Foreign Procurement Dept., National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN
Notice: Only the real or legal persons who apply to purchase and receive tender documents from foreign procurement department in due date and participates in tenders will be known as tenderer from tender committee.

C) Delivery of bids envelopes:
Tenderers shall submit simultaneously envelopes of bids including (A) Tender bank guarantee, (B) stamped and signed of tender documents, (C) The priced signed and stamped of the same Technical-Commercial sheets maximum till Jun 30, 2018 to the following address: Hall No.:107, 1st floor, Tender Committee, Building operations, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN.
Notice: The deadline for the refusal of bidders participation in the tender is the last day of determined for submission of bids.

D) The envelopes will be opened at Jul 1st, 2018 On 9:00

E) Tender Guarantee:
Type of guarantee:
A) Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that have activities licensed by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
B) The original cash deposit receipt paid to the account number 4001114006376636 under the title of “centralized guarantee funds” of National Iranian Drilling Company to the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran.

Duration of credit guarantee & quotation:
This duration should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum For one time in initial credit amount.
More on this & other tenders is accessible by click on WWW.NIDC.IR
News Channel of NIDC : @nide_pr
Foreign Procurement Dept
National Iranian Drilling Company

تهران تایمز نوبت اول ۹۷/۰۲/۲۵ نوبت دوم ۹۷/۰۲/۲۶

Pars Diplomatic Real Estate

Apartment

Luxury Apt in Jordan
new, 120 sq.m, 2 Bdrs., luxury
furn, parking, lobby
\$2300

Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Apt in Shariati
65 sq.m, 1 Bdr., new furn/unfurn,
balcony, good access, near to
subway **\$1500**

Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Apt in South Dibaji
3rd floor, 150 sq.m, 2 Bdr.
fully furn, spj, lobby **\$2000**

Ms.Diba: 09128103206

New Duplex Apt in Elahieh
2nd floor, 130 sq.m, 2 Bdrs.
unfurn, equipped kitchen
spj, lobby, pkg
Mr.Shayan: 09122449623

Apt in Manzariyeh
8th floor, 215 sq.m, 3 Bdrs.
fully furn, parking, spj
gym saloon, fire place, elevator
balcony, storage
Mr.Shayan: 09122449623

Nice Apt in Zafarani
5th floor, 310 sq.m, 4 Bdrs.
luxury furn, nice balcony, with
diplomatic building
\$5500
Suitable for Diplomats
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Villa

Duplex Villa in Qeytarieh
1250 sq.m land, 950 sq.m
5 Bdrs., indoor swimming pool 2
balconies, semi furn, green garden,
3 sides entrances, pkg
Price Negotiable

Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Duplex Villa in Farmanieh
400 sq.m, 4 Bdrs., fully furn green
& nice garden
fully renovated, **\$4500**
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Duplex Villa in Velenjak
1100 sq.m built up, 1300 sq.m land,
9 Bdrs., renovated, nice garden,
semi furn, outdoor pool nice
garden, 2 big balconies storage,
servant quarter
2 side entrances, **\$15000**
Suitable for Embassy & Company
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Super Luxury Villa in Elahieh
1500 sq.m, 900 sq.m built up
duplex, green garden, outdoor
pool, renovated, furn & unfurn
\$15000
Suitable for Embassy & Residency
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Villa in Zafarani
600 sq.m, 5 Bdrs., fully furn reno
vated, outdoor pool, **\$8000**
Suitable for Embassy & Residency
Ms.Diba: 09128103206



Holder of
ISO 9001:2008
ISO 10004:2012
ISO 10002:2014

From Oxford Cert Universal

**Best Consultation
Best Services, Best Result**

Intl. Department Manager "Tina 09128103205"

Tel: 22662452-8, Fax: 22667173

Hot Line: 28141
info@parsdiplomatic.com
www.parsdiplomatic.com

Building & Office

Twin building in Jordan
10 apts totally, 30rooms, new roof
outdoor pool, good access

Price negotiable

Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Whole Building in Zafarani
19 apt & each apt 200 sq.m with
3 Bdrs., one penthouse with 5
rooms, pkg, 4900 sq.m built up
6900 sq.m land, semi furn
Suitable for Residency & Embassy
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Whole Building in Kamrani
10 unit Apt, 60 Bdrs., each Apt
around 210 sq.m, with 3 Bdrs.
lobby, 37 parking & more, spj, too
many storage rooms, completely
renovated, good access to highway

**Ready for Renting to foreign
Companies & Residency**

Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Whole Building in Zafarani
5th floor, new, each floor one unit
each unit 150 sq.m with 3 rooms
parking, lobby

Price negotiable

Suitable for Residency & Embassy
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Whole Building in Mahmoodieh
12 units, each unit 4 Bdrs.
each unit 260 sq.m, unfurn
lobby, parking
\$50000 negotiable
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Ideal Offers

Offer in Shariati-Soheil

170 sq.m, 3 Bdrs.
sauna, pool, jacuzzi
nice & clean furn
\$2500

Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Apt in Jordan
5th floor, 120 sq.m, 2 Bdrs.
fully furn, lobby, pkg diplomatic
building **\$1500**

Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Suite in Elahieh

40 sq.m, good access
\$1500

Ms.Diba: 09128103206

فقط مالکین محترم

یک ساختمان مستقل با ۳۰۰ تا ۳۰۰
اطاق خواب جهت سکونت کارمندان
یک شرکت بین‌المللی در شمال و شمال
غرب تهران جهت اجاره نیازمندیم

خانم دیبا: ۰۹۱۲۸۱۰۳۲۰۶

دفتر: ۲۲۶۶۲۴۵۴ - ۲۸۱۴۱

حدود ۳۰۰۰ متر بنا سند اداری در
شمال شهر تهران جهت اجاره به یک
کمپانی اروپایی، فوری نیازمندیم.

خانم دیبا: ۰۹۱۲۸۱۰۳۲۰۶

دفتر: ۲۲۶۶۲۴۵۴ - ۲۸۱۴۱

مالکین محترم

ملک های فروش و اجاره ای خود را (آپارتمان،
ویلا، مستغلات، اداری و تجاری) به ما بسپارید.

بهترین مشاوره، برترین سروس، بالاترین رضایت

مالکین محترم املاک مبله و غیرمبله، مسکونی، اداری و تجاری، ویلا و مستغلات
شما را جهت اجاره به سفارتخانه ها و شرکت های خارجی نیازمندیم.

مالکین محترم

ویلاهای شما را جهت اجاره به منزل سفیر و مدیران
شرکت های بین المللی در مناطق شمالی تهران
نیازمندیم.



TEHRANTIMES
Iran's Leading International Daily

Advertising Dept: times1979@gmail.com

Advertising Dept:

times1979@gmail.com

430 51 450

430 51 405

PARSIAN Real Estate
SHANON
Shanon_zt@yahoo.com
+989121907875
Tel: 88510081

Kamranieh (\$3800) 3bdrs, 200sq.m S/p, S, J, & F.F	Darrous (\$2000) 180sq.m, 3bdrs balcony, & F.F	Zaferanieh Villa 1800sq.m, 8bdrs yard, S/p (\$8000)
Elahieh (\$4000) 260sq.m, 4bdrs roof garden, F.F	Jordan (\$1800) 140sq.m, 2bdrs S/p, S, J, F.F	Arjantin (\$10000) 4storey bldg, 10bdrs pkg lots, & yard

Don't Waste Your Time
Visit our website to choose your desired rental Properties
www.DeltaHOME.ir
The Most Specialized Website for Foreigners
HOME
Real Estate
Member of DELTA Real Estate Group
(021) 88888865

maharaja
Indian Restaurant
**FIRST INDIAN RESTAURANT
IN IRAN**
PRIVATE PARKING LOT
Jahan Hotel (Exelsior) - Rahimzade Alley - Taleqani
Crossroads - Valiasr St. Tel: 66476855

**Zafarani Residential Complex,
(Karadj) Soheilieh, 9 KM to Hashtgerd**
A 2,000 m2 fruit orchard with an outdoor swimming pool, BBQ &
a big storage room. The facilities include a janitor's quarters and a
fully furnished 180 m2 villa - the furnishing includes furniture such
as a Panasonic TV, a side by side refrigerator, dish washer, washing
machine plus Internet access, satellite, 2 power branches, 3 separate
water supplies (2 city splits + 1 well) & 2 land lines.
Rent negotiable Please contact:
M. Khazaeli 0912 264 94 99

Bistango
International Cuisine
A divine combination of food and art!
www.bistangorestaurant.com
Raamtin Hotel No. 2153, Vali Asr Ave., South of Saei Park
Tel: 88554409 - 88722786

TEHRAN
INTERNATIONAL DAILY
Times
Explore a Brand New Market
in Iran for Goods & Services

C.I.P
Real Estate Advisory
Apt., Villa, Office, Building
With All Sizes (100, 250, ...) in
Fereshteh, Jordan, Zafarani,
With sauna & Jacuzzi and pool
are available
For Renting and Buying
Mr. Moein
0912-8301540
021-26200012

TEHRAN TIMES
Iran's Leading International Daily
Advertising Dept

Tel: 021 - 430 51 450
times1979@gmail.com



Taj Mahal Hotel & Indian Restaurant



Mahi Mahi Gilaki Restaurant

Plot No 29, Sout Sheykh Bahayi Street, Molasadra Blvd, Vanak Sq, Tehran, Iran

www.Tajmahalhotel.ir [@tajmahal_hotel](https://www.instagram.com/tajmahal_hotel) Tel: +98(21)-88035444

IGW development project comes on stream

TECHNOLOGY **TEHRAN** — With the aim of facilitating data transfer and connection to regional network operators, an international gateway (IGW) development project was inaugurated in Tehran on Monday.

Information and Communications Technology Minister Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi attended the inauguration ceremony, which was held to observe World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, May 17, which is annually celebrated worldwide, Mehr reported.

The project meet the demands of network operators for increasing bandwidth and providing network infrastructure to facilitate data transfer.



Providing 2.4 Tbit international internet bandwidth and bandwidth distribution in seven centers are some of the achievements of the project.

On Monday, Azari Jahromi also attended the opening ceremony of a network operations center (NOC), in which network monitoring and control, or network management, is done over a telecommunication network.

During the ceremony, Jahromi said that seven months ago only 35 percent of Iran's villages were connected to telecommunication network, which has increased to 55 percent recently.

"Many citizens are waiting for landline telephone in some cities in Iran while fourth generation of broadband cellular network, 4G, is available in those places," he said.

"Hence, we can benefit from capacities of 4G network instead of using copper wire," he added.

Thieves suck millions out of Mexican banks in transfer heist

Thieves siphoned hundreds of millions of pesos out of Mexican banks, including No. 2 Banorte, by creating phantom orders that wired funds to bogus accounts and promptly withdrew the money, two sources close to the government's investigation said. Hackers sent hundreds of false orders to move amounts ranging from tens of thousands to hundreds of thousands of pesos from banks including Banorte, to fake accounts in other banks, the sources said, and accomplices then emptied the accounts in cash withdrawals in dozens of branch offices.

One source said the thieves transferred more than 300 million pesos (\$15.4 million). Daily newspaper El Financiero said about 400 million pesos had been stolen in the hack, citing an anonymous source.

It was not clear how much of the money transferred was later withdrawn in cash. Some of the attempts to fraudulently transfer funds were blocked, the sources said.

Mexico's central bank Governor Alejandro Diaz de Leon told journalists late Monday that the attack on the payment system was unprecedented and that he hoped that measures being taken would stop future incidents.



"There's no evidence that would allow us to say with certainty that this is over," he said. "We're taking corrective and mitigating action."

Diaz de Leon declined to name banks or confirm amounts stolen, but said the central bank is still investigating what happened.

He later said in a radio interview that all the evidence, which is so far only partial, pointed to a cyberattack. Lorenza Martinez, head of Banxico's payment system, told Reuters on Friday that five institutions saw "unauthorized transfers."

Inter-bank transfers slowed in later April, feeding worries that Latin America's second biggest economy could be the latest victim in a global wave of cyber attacks.

Hackers may have had help inside bank branches, since such big cash withdrawals are uncommon, one source said.

"In terms of the security of the bank's offices, I think that is part of the analysis that each bank is doing," Martinez said.

He said that the central bank's SPEI interbank transfer system was not compromised but that the problem had to do with software developed by institutions or third-party providers to connect to the payment system.

Many banks have migrated to an alternate, slower technology to connect to the payment system, she said.

A Banorte spokeswoman declined to answer questions from Reuters on Monday, and pointed to a May 9 statement from the bank that said clients' deposits were not affected by the "incident."

Mexico's SPEI system is a domestic network similar to the SWIFT global messaging system that moves trillions of dollars each day. Hackers have used SWIFT connections to attack banks around the world.

The central bank also said that no clients had been affected so far. Martinez said that the transfers hit accounts of financial institutions in the central bank.

(Source: Reuters)

Isfahan to host World Conference on Science Parks and Areas of Innovation

TECHNOLOGY **TEHRAN** — The International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation (IASP) will hold the 35th World Conference on Science Parks and Areas of Innovation from September 2 to 5 at the Isfahan Science and Technology Park.

Luis Sanz, the IASP director general of International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation, visited deputy vice president for international and technological affairs Ali Morteza Birang during his recent trip to Iran. ISNA reported on Monday.

During their visit, Sanz announced that over 500 professionals will attend the event from all over the world.

Birang, for his part, highlighted the importance of holding the conference in Iran, saying that the government would facilitate the foreign guests' sojourn during the event.

With the theme of "Towards sustainable cities and communities: fostering innovation ecosystems" the IASP 2018 World Conference will explore the role of Software Technology Parks and Area of Innovations in the formation of the innovation ecosystem and the sustainable development of cities.

According to IASP website, in 2015, the UN adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to guide global action and investment for sustainable development over the next 15 years, one of which focuses on Sustainable Cities and Communities.

Iran launches healthy products network



TECHNOLOGY **TEHRAN** — Iran's healthy products network (with Persian acronym of SHAMS) was inaugurated during a ceremony in Tehran on Saturday, ILNA reported.

The ceremony was attended by several officials including the secretary of Biotech Development Center (BioDC) Mostafa Qanei and the head of Biotechnology Studies Center at Iran's science and technology vice presidency Mohammad Ali Malboubi.

The network aims to produce advanced seeds, organic fertilizers, environmental inhibitors, healthful seedlings and saplings, Malboubi said.

He said that the network plans to rate products considering their range of health, production process and being organic.

The origin of agricultural product, its process for harvest and the final product are considered in rating at the network, he said.

Technology: Apps that help you manage your life

Know thyself, advises the ancient Greek aphorism – and before others get to know you better, a modern-day thinker might add, given the surveillance to which we are all subjected to today.

If learning is to be life-long, we should get used to being assessed by the latest science of data analytics – a continuous monitoring of our thoughts, interests, attention span, productivity and overall performance culled from our interactions with online courses, social networks and other services. Then there are the data produced from observing us through cameras and sensors in our smart devices, and through an increasingly smart world around us.

But what if all this data could be turned to our advantage and we could stay a step ahead of those wanting to get our measure, whether in education or our working lives? We have the means to do this with our gadgets and with new services that are emerging.

Companies are being forced to accept the "bring your own device" trend of workers using their own smartphones, tablets and laptops in the office and these devices contain a multiplicity of apps and sensors that can help us know our strengths and weaknesses, while optimizing mind and body for better performance.

I have tried many of these devices and services for reviews, but my experience pales next to BMC Software's Chris Dancy.

His day typically begins with him being woken by his Philips Hue lights. These are WiFi-enabled lightbulbs whose color and intensity can be set with an iPhone app. His sleep patterns will have been recorded by a BodyMedia armband that has a range of sensors for monitoring sleeping and waking activity.

Stepping on to his Fitbit Aria WiFi scale, his weight is recorded and sent to an app. As he meditates, eats and gets ready for work, records are created for his activities, calorie consumption, mood, the temperature and humidity and what music he has enjoyed.



Apps and services that enable this include Insight Timer, a meditation app that logs your progress, and WeMo, a home automation switch that will turn on and off lights and other devices, with remote control enabled through its own app.

Dancy also uses Lose It!, a weight loss service; Spotify for logging his music; Netatmo, a personal weather station that monitors air quality; MoodPanda, a mood diary, and the Wahoo Blue HR heart-rate strap. All of these have related apps for your smartphone.

During his working day, there is another smorgasbord of services to record activity. Evernote stores notes and bookmarks, Trello helps organise projects, Google Drive stores documents. A lot of this is stitched together by Zapier, a service that lets you automate tasks such as data collection between more than 190 online services. Shopping at lunchtime can be recorded by a personal finance app such as Mint. He also uses Placeme, a free app that automatically records your whereabouts. Like him, I prefer RunKeeper for recording



tainable development.

International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation (IASP) is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

It aims to coordinate a very active network

Iran's first stem cell factory opened



TECHNOLOGY **TEHRAN** — The first stem cell and regenerative medicine factory in Iran was opened in Tehran on Saturday.

First Vice President Es'haq Jahangiri and Health Minister Hassan Qazizadeh-Hashemi attended the opening ceremony, ISNA reported.

The Cell Tech Pharmed Factory is a subdivision of Cell Tech Pharmer Group Co. and the Cellular-Molecular project of

Barkat Pharmaceutical Group.

The Execution of Imam Khomeini's Order and Royan Institute, affiliated to Academic Center for Education, Culture and Research, are the founders of the factory.

Cell Tech Pharmed, an Iranian stem cell and regenerative medicine company was established in 2014 to meet the on-going demands for stem cell therapy in the country.

sors measuring temperature, humidity and atmospheric pressure, for example.

The overall benefit is empowering people to optimise their environment for their day-to-day activities and making them masters rather than victims of their data. Unlike the mechanic plugging a computer into a car to read its vital signs, we would no longer be the human middleware between machines.

■ **Evernote Food and Hello (Android and iOS, free)**

Evernote has two apps for helping you remember precisely who you met and what you ate on your travels. Hello lets you take a photo of a contact and/or their business card, whose details will be scanned online and their LinkedIn profiles connected to the information. Evernote Food allows you to take a picture to remind you of what you ate, with time and location recorded. The app also allows saving of your favorite eating places and recipes.

■ **Lose It! (Android and iOS, free)**

Lose It! provides plenty of ways to record your meals to the last calorie. You can scan bar codes on products, choose from brand-name foods, search through lists of common foods, your own favorites or just add previous meals to the log when you repeat them. It asks for details of your weight, height and goals in order to set a daily calorie limit that counts down as you add the meals. Lose It! integrates with apps and devices such as Runkeeper and the Withings WiFi scale.

■ **Placeme (Android and iOS, free)**

Ever wondered where you were at a particular time? Placeme tracks your movements through an app that determines location on your smartphone by using GPS and WiFi hotspots. Everything is tracked automatically in the background, although you can edit the locations to pinpoint and record a particular restaurant, for example. Activity can be automatically uploaded daily to the Evernote note-saving service for later analysis.

(Source: ft.com)

How long can a neutron survive outside an atom?

Fundamental physics, as we've seen, finds itself in a difficult situation. Nothing unexpected has turned up at the Large Hadron Collider. We have phenomena like dark matter and dark energy that are defying explanation. And some of the most exciting ideas that theoreticians are coming up with have steadfastly refused to submit to any form of experimental testing.

One possible route out of this mess is to focus on some of the oddities in the data that we already have. For example, there are a few measurements that seem to show particle behavior that's inconsistent with physics' Standard Model. And there are other cases where two different routes to the same measurement give different results, a possible sign that some new physics is influencing one experimental approach but not another. But before we pursue these oddities, the first step is to confirm that something unexpected is really happening.

This is exactly the situation we have with the decay of neutrons. We have two different ways of measuring the neutron's half-life, and the values they produce disagree by an appreciable amount. To find out whether this disagreement is real, however, we have to increase the precision of the measurements. And that's precisely what a large U.S.-Russian collaboration has done.



Neutrons are probably best known for being a chargeless component of the nucleus of all atoms other than hydrogen. In that

context, they can be extremely stable—you probably noted the fact that your body wasn't decaying around you. But pull neutrons out of

Neutrons have no charge, so they're a bit difficult to control, and they tend to undergo reactions with atoms that they happen to bump into. This makes them a challenge to track, but scientists have settled on two methods.

that context, and they become very unhappy. They'll decay into a proton, an electron, and a neutrino. That decay has a half life — the time it would take half the neutrons in a large sample to decay — of a bit under 15 minutes. But just how much less isn't clear.

■ Lack of measurement

That's not for lack of measurements. We have plenty of them, many with error bars of less than three seconds. The problem is that these measurements systematically disagree.

Neutrons have no charge, so they're a bit difficult to control, and they tend to undergo reactions with atoms that they happen to bump into. This makes them a challenge to track, but scientists have settled on two methods. One is to produce a beam of neutrons and watch the beam for signs of the decay products. This produces a value for the half-life of 887.7 ± 2.2 seconds.

A second method is to try to store the neutrons for a length of time and see how many of them decay. Annoyingly, this produces a value of 878.5 ± 0.8 . Those are more than nine seconds apart, a difference of about four standard deviations.

Getting that to the point where the difference is five standard deviations — a value that physics accepts as indicating an effect is real — requires cutting down on those errors.

(Source: arstechnica.com)

Lead pollution in Greenland ice core shows lead emissions from ancient Greeks, Romans



Records of the economic history of the Empire are scarce, but scientists have found a different way to measure the activity of Romans through ice cores. Taken from Greenland, the ice cores show how ancient Roman economy fared through times of peace, war, plague, and unrest.

A team of researchers that included scientists, archaeologists, and economists from the Desert Research Institute, University of Oxford, and the Norwegian Institute for Air Research published a study in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences showing how ice cores can be used to study the Roman Empire.

Ice cores taken from Greenland allowed the research team to gather data from 1,235 BC during the late Iron Age to the early Middle Ages around 1,257 AD. The accurately dated measurements found that lead pollution in the ice cores show the history of the Roman Empire as events impacted the economy of the empire.

■ Time period

Researchers used a study from the mid-1990s which used 18 measurements in the period between 1,110 BC and AD 800. This new study follows the same time period but uses 21,000 measurements to create a record for the time period.

Ice cores can be difficult to come across in Greenland. It can take three to four years to drill into the bedrock and get to the cores. Researchers in this study were able to use a core that had to be abandoned

after a drill got stuck at the 6,500-foot level, scientists used a 1,400-foot section of the core.

This core contained 40,000 years of annual snowfalls. It was then cut into rods just over three feet long then were melted from the bottom. The ice was melted at the rate of two inches per minute. Lead quantity was measured using mass spectrometers.

Roman prosperity is tied to lead because it was used for making water pipes and sheathing for boats. Romans made their standard coin, the denarius, out of silver and silver occurs in lead ores.

■ High temperatures

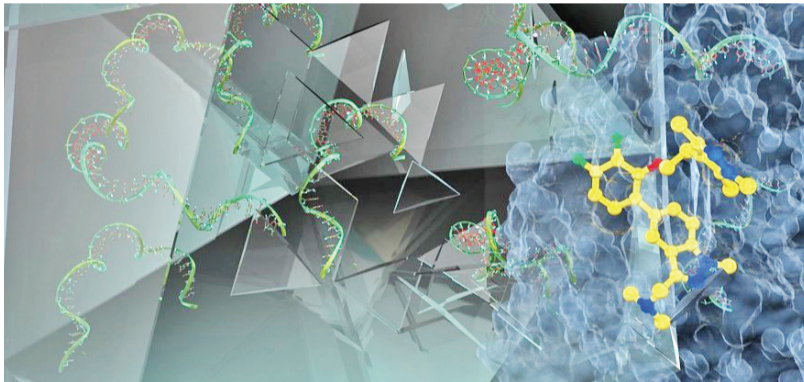
Separating the silver from lead requires high temperatures which pumped lead into the atmosphere.

Scientists show that during times of peace, lead pollution from the Roman Empire rose. This was during the period of Pax Romana between 27 BC and 180 A.D. There were drops in the level of lead after this period due to civil wars. Other events that caused a notable drop in lead production include the Antonine plague of 165-180 A.D., and the Cyprian plague 250-270 A.D.

The lowest point of lead emissions in the ice core was found to be during the Imperial Crisis of 235 to 284 A.D. During this time, there were barbarian invasions, the Cyprian plague, and internal problems within the empire.

(Source: Greenland)

This new molecule could actually become a cure for the common cold



It's 2018 and the common cold is still a thing. But if we're lucky, that might not be the case for much longer.

Scientists in the UK have developed a new molecule that prevents viruses responsible for the sickness from replicating inside human cells — and if further testing confirms the compound is safe, we could be looking at the unthinkable: a cure.

Of course, while we might call it the common cold that oversimplified name doesn't really do justice to the more than 200 different virus strains forever vying to seize hold of your throat, chest, nose, and patience.

That viral variation is in fact is a big part of the reason why scientists have never succeeded in developing a single vaccine for the common cold — but a new approach led by researchers from Imperial College London could lay the foundations for a medication that actually treats the sickness, not just its symptoms.

Instead of going after these many and varied viruses — most of which are species of rhinovirus, of which there are some 160 recognized types — the new compound the team discovered, codenamed IMP-1088, focusses instead on something the viruses need: your cells.

■ Protein in human cells

To replicate inside their host, viruses hijack a protein in human cells called N-myristoyltransferase (NMT), which they use to construct a capsid (shell) for

protecting their genetic structure.

"Viruses hijack the host to make more copies of themselves," one of the team, cell biologist Roberto Solari explained to The Guardian.

"This enzyme is one of the host enzymes that the virus hijacks."

This hijacking behavior isn't unique to rhinovirus. Other pathogens and parasites also drawn to the protein, including the human malaria parasite Plasmodium falciparum.

In fact, it was while researching ways to inhibit P. falciparum from hijacking NMT that members of the team discovered the molecular structure of the new compound, IMP-1088, which inhibits viral binding to the protein with devastating effectiveness.

■ Level of potency

Scientists have investigated these kinds of NMT inhibitors before, but they've never previously struck upon this level of potency.

According to the team, IMP-1088 is up to 100,000 times more effective at blocking viruses from hijacking our cell proteins than previous efforts, which they say leads to "complete suppression" of viral replication and infectivity.

So far, these results have only been demonstrated in vitro — in experiments with human cells in the lab — so we don't have a proven cold cure that you can actually take.

(Source: sciencealert.com)

Optical tweezers -- mini 'tractor beams' -- help arrange artificial cells into tissue structures

Researchers have used lasers to connect, arrange and merge artificial cells, paving the way for networks of artificial cells that act like tissues.

The team say that by altering artificial cell membranes they can now get the cells to stick together like 'stickle bricks' -- allowing them to be arranged into whole new structures.

Artificial cells, however, can in principle be made to order. Now, researchers from Imperial College London and Loughborough University have demonstrated a new level of complexity with artificial cells by arranging them into basic tissue structures with different types of connectivity.

These structures could be used to perform functions like initiating chemical reactions or moving chemicals around networks of artificial and biological cells. This could be useful in carrying out chemical reactions in ultra-small volumes, in studying the mechanisms through which cells communicate with one another, and in the development of a new generation of smart biomaterials.

Cells are the basic units of biology, which are capable of working together as a collective when arranged into tissues. In order to do this, cells must be connected and be capable of exchanging materials with one another. The team were able to link up artificial cells into a range of new architectures, the results of which are published today in Nature Communications.

The artificial cells have a membrane-like layer as their shell, which the researchers engineered to 'stick' to each other. In order to get the cells to come close enough, the team first had to manipulate the cells with 'optical tweezers' that act like mini 'tractor beams' dragging and dropping cells into any position.

(Source: sciencedaily.com)

NASA engineers building real-life underwater transformer

A transformer designed to do grunt work for the oil industry and military is coming, and it's ... admittedly kind of fun to look at.

Houston Mechatronics, a small company founded and led by a team of former NASA robot engineers, announced May 1 some major strides toward building a transforming submersible the company calls "Aquanaut." The 2,315-pound (1,050 kilograms) unmanned underwater vehicle (UUV) will transform itself in order to operate in two modes, according to the company: a sleek, submarine-shaped autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) mode, and an unfolded, two-armed remotely operated vehicle (ROV) mode for work.

"When Aquanaut moves through the water, we want as little drag as possible to extend the maximum range of what the vehicle can do on battery power," Houston Mechatronics spokesperson Sean Halpin said. "By enclosing the limbs, we're able to operate the vehicle over great distances, up to 200 kilometers (124 miles)."

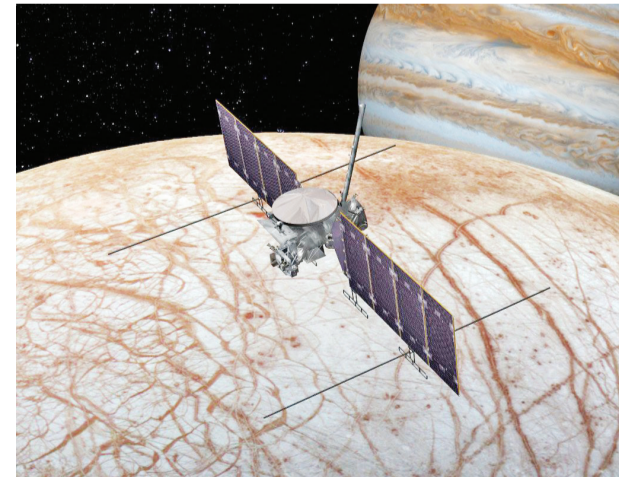
The underwater drone's two big selling points, Halpin told Live Science, are its long arms and long range. Each arm is a significant chunk of the Aquanaut's length — 9 feet 6 inches (2.9 meters) in AUV mode, and 11 feet 6 inches (3.5 meters) in ROV mode — and highly articulated for a number of tasks requiring dexterity. Halpin said that the arms are the only part that's been fully completed, but that they're the most difficult bit to design.

The first challenge of Aquanaut, he said, was "elegance." The company worked to come up with a design that was fully transformable and highly functional in ROV, mode while using as few moving parts as possible. "As you can imagine, things that move may break," he said. "Now, if you see the Transformers in the Michael Bay movies they have a million little parts that are moving when they transform."

(Source: Live Science)

Potentially habitable Europa has plumes that could reshape hunt for alien life

Jupiter's moon Europa has been regarded as one of the most interesting places in the solar system for two decades now. Scientists think its icy surface hides a vast liquid ocean and say there's a chance microbial life could be tucked away in that ocean. But the same ice shell that would protect any life below it stymies efforts to suss out what's going on.



Now, scientists may have discovered a way around that challenge. In a paper published Monday by the journal Nature Astronomy, a team presents evidence that a spacecraft has already flown through a jet of liquid rising from Europa's surface. It's hard not to dream that such a plume would carry any life up to where human instruments could study it more easily.

Conveniently, NASA is already planning to visit the moon, with a mission due to launch in the 2020s. Even before the new results were made public, a congressman used them to make the case for giving the mission additional funding.

Despite the immediate excitement about the new finding, it's actually based on old data, gathered by the Galileo spacecraft, which studied Jupiter and its moons in the 1990s and early 2000s. Scientists went back to that data after a few images taken by the Hubble Space Telescope and published over the past five years seemed to suggest something was spewing off Europa's surface.

(Source: Newsweek)

Setting Up a bank dedicated to Iran with European shareholders: EGFI Board member

For the first time in the course of history, Europe is trying to act independently from the US. It seems that Europe is largely considered as a driving force for the implementation of Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the official title of nuclear deal.

A member of the Board of Directors of Export Guarantee Fund of Iran (EGFI) Arash Shahr-Aeini revealed the above statement and said, "with the announce of US new positions adopted on JCPOA, nationwide risk level will increase significantly."

Here, the role of governmental organization and institutions including Export

Guarantee Fund of Iran I(EGFI) will be more highlighted.

Perhaps, it is for the first time in the history that Europe intends to act independently from the US, he reiterated.

If the Ministry of Foreign Affairs receives sufficient guarantee from the European countries, a suitable condition can be predicted, otherwise, other conditions can be imagined, he maintained.

Generally speaking, the country should prepare itself to predict any situation in this respect, he said, adding, "the country faced such critical situation in the past but could

overcome the difficulties according to the experiences gained in this regard."

Banking issues will be among the most important issues in this regard, he maintained.

Inaccessibility to SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications), disruptions in the brokerage relationships and challenges ahead of banking interactions are of the possible challenges facing ahead, he said, adding, "if Europe is after maintaining JCPOA, it should focus on banking communications beyond SWIFT. If needed, central banks of European countries should set up a bank dedicated to Iran with



the European shareholders."

In the end, he said, "this bank will be able to circumvent sanctions without fear of the US sanctions."

IMIDRO chief: \$1b to be invested in Kordestan Province to spur steel production

Chief Executive of Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) Mehdi Karbasian said that \$1 billion worth of fund will be invested in Kordestan Province in order to spur steel production.

Speaking in the signing and sealing ceremony between three privately-funded companies and IMIDRO held in the presence of Bahman Moradnia Governor General of Kordestan Province, Karbasian said, "with the coordination made in this regard, \$1 billion worth of fund will be invested in Kordestan Province for increasing steel production volume."

Upon signing and sealing this agreement, suitable ways

will be provided for producing 2.5 million tons of iron ore concentrate, 2.5 million tons of conglomerate, 1.6 million tons of Direct Reduction Iron (DRI), sponge iron, 1.5 million tons of smelt and one million tons of steel sheet, he maintained.

He went on to say that this agreement was inked between IMIDRO and three privately-funded economic enterprises including SABA Steel Company, Kimia Madan Sepahan Company and EMDAD Mines and Mining Development Company in order to complete the steel production chain as well as development of downstream industries.

Elsewhere in his remarks, IMIDRO chief expounded

on the exploratory measures taken by his organization in Kordestan Province and added, "since Kordestan Province is rich in mining and mineral reserves in the country as compared to other provinces, vast and widespread exploratory measures had not been predicted in this area over the past years."

It is predicted that \$1 billion worth of fund will be invested in steel production chain in Kordestan Steel Company, he opined.

In the end, Karbasian said, "once these steel projects are put into operation, employment opportunities will be generated for more than 1,000 people directly."

Iran, Germany discuss drawing roadmap to boost co-op in water sector

ENVIRONMENT d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iran and Germany have called for devising a roadmap towards improving cooperation in water-related issues, especially governing transboundary waters as well as implementing wastewater management projects.

Iranian Energy Minister, Reza Ardakanian, has travelled to Germany at the invitation of German Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy, Peter Altmaier, IRNA reported on Tuesday. Ardakanian also met with German Federal Minister of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Svenja Schulze.

During the meeting, Ardakanian deemed water scarcity a global challenge which entails regional and international cooperation. Mentioning transboundary waters shared between Iran and Afghanistan and Iran and Iraq Ardakanian asked the German official to share experiences on managing these trans-border sources of water specially Helmand and Arvand Rud rivers shared with Afghanistan and Iraq respectively.

Arvand Rud or Shatt al-Arab or is a river of some 200 km in length, formed by the confluence of the Euphrates and the Tigris in the town of al-Qurnah in the Basra Governorate of southern Iraq. The southern end of the river constitutes the border between Iraq and Iran down to the mouth of the river as it discharges into the Persian Gulf.



Iranian Energy Minister, Reza Ardakanian

The Helmand River is the longest river in Afghanistan and the primary watershed for the endorheic Sistan Basin. The river stretches for 1,150 km. It rises in the Hindu Kush Mountains. It crosses south-west through the desert of Dashti Margo, to the Sistan marshes and the Hamoun-e-Helmand lake region around Zabol at the Afghan-Iranian border.

This river is used extensively for irrigation, although a buildup of mineral salts has decreased its usefulness in watering crops. Its waters are essential for farmers in Afghanistan, but it feeds into Lake Hamoun in Iran and is also important to farmers in Iran's southeastern Sistan and Baluchestan province.

Conflicting territorial claims and disputes over navigation rights of the aforesaid rivers between Iran and Iraq and Iran and Afghanistan are fueled by the climate change and low precipitations amounts in the region.

Over his trip to Germany the Iranian Energy Minister has also attended IFAT, the World's Leading Trade Fair for Water, Sewage, Waste and Raw Materials Management.

IFAT 2018 takes place in Munich, Germany from 14-18 May 2018. IFAT is the world's leading trade show on environmental technology, including innovations and services in water, sewage, waste and raw materials management. The previous edition in 2016 attracted 3,097 exhibitors from 59 countries and 138,000 visitors from 170 countries. It takes place every two years and has firmly established itself since its founding in 1966 as an industry meeting place.

LEARN ENGLISH

Hiring Help

A: Can you help me write a newspaper **ad**?
B: Sure, what are you looking to buy or sell?
A: Actually, I want to **hire** someone to help me around the house.
B: Oh, you want to get a **maid**?
A: Well, I think it's better if you call her a **cleaning lady** or **domestic help**.
B: Ok, so what do you want her to do?
A: Well, let's see. I want her to come in three times a week for a couple of hours to clean the kitchen, bathroom and maybe do some cooking.
B: Got it. And how much do you offer per month?
A: I would pay her **hourly**, I don't know what the **going rate** is though.
B: I know for sure it's more than **minimum wage** but maybe you should just **negotiate** with the person that answers the ad.
A: Great! Thanks for your help!

■ **Key vocabulary**
ad: and advertisement or advert
hire: to give work
maid: a female whose job is to clean and cook
cleaning lady: a person that is hired to clean, a maid
domestic help: a servant who is paid to perform tasks around the house
hourly: per hour
going rate: the current price or fee of something
minimum wage: the lowest legal salary a person can earn
negotiate: discuss and reach a mutual deal

■ **Supplementary vocabulary**
servant: one who is privately employed to perform domestic services.
cook: a person who prepares food for eating
gardener: one who works in or tends a garden for pleasure or hire
plumber: one that installs and repairs pipes and plumbing
electrician a person whose occupation is the installation, maintenance, and repair of electrical devices

(Source: irlanguage.com)



Without water,
everything
withers

Water flow to Lake Urmia drops by 400mcm yr/yr: environment chief

ENVIRONMENT d e s k **TEHRAN** — Water flow to Lake Urmia, northwest-ern Iran, has decreased by 400 million cubic meters year on year, chief of the Department of Environment (DOE) has said.

As per the figures published in Lake Urmia Restoration Program website long-term average discharges of water amounted to some 3.1 billion cubic meters. Decreasing the water flow into the lake is considered as one the main contributory factors in the lake dryness

Lake Urmia which was the largest salt-water lake in the Middle East and twice as large as Luxembourg has been facing great challenges for the past 20 years. The lake's volume of water and surface has drastically dropped over this period. In 1997 the volume of water at the lake measured at 30 billion cubic meters which dramatically decreased to half a billion cubic meters in 2013 and again rose to 2.5 billion cubic meters in 2017. While the lake had a surface area of 5,000 square kilometers in 1997 the surface shrunk to one tenth of that to 500 square kilometers in 2013.

Unsustainable development at the wetlands basin including agricultural practices, dam construction and depletion of groundwater resources as well as climate change and lower precipitation levels have all contributed to the lake dryness to different extent.

"The reason behind the decreased flow of water to the lake is storing the water behind



A photo of Urmia Lake taken in early April

the dams," Issa Kalantari regretted, YJC reported on Tuesday.

"We human beings first devastate something and then start to think about restoring it by bearing enormous expenses," Kalantari said, adding that while climate change has an 18 percent share of the lake's disappearance the major cause of the lake drainage is "us".

"We are opportunists and due to our arrogance, the gaps in our knowledge and our

shortsightedness we want everything for the present," he lamented, stating, "now because of the climate change, low precipitation and large-scale exploitations it is extremely difficult to restore the wetlands nationwide."

The past months precipitation has increased Lake Urmia mean precipitation levels by 23 percent but the Ministry of Energy has not fulfilled its commitment to release the water into the lake and the water is now

stored behind the dams [mainly for agricultural purposes], he explained.

Unfortunately, Kalantari said, "in Iran we do not appreciate the importance of long-term plans and all our wetlands are now drying up."

■ **Adapt to new conditions**

Mohammad Darvish, environmental activist and the board member at Research Institute of Forests and Rangelands, has said that inter-basin water transfer does not restore Lake Urmia and the restoration will be completed once people residing the lake basin start to adapt themselves to the current conditions.

The lake water is only enough to feed some 300,000 hectares of farming lands while there are 680,000 hectares of lands in the region, and that's why the lake is meeting its end, YJC quoted Darvish as saying on Monday.

The locals should focus on tourism to earn a living and shifting to clean energies, such as solar energy, to generate incomes, he suggested.

Darvish went on to say that one of the main culprit of lake dryness is farming sugar beet which is a water intensive product.

Transferring water from Aras, a river flowing through Turkey, is not going to help revive the lake, this would only act as painkiller and only reduce the symptoms, he explained, stating, "the restoration of the lake will be completed once we start to use the lake in accordance with its ecological capacities."

Investors urge fossil fuel firms to shun Trump's Arctic drilling plans

Investors managing more than \$2.5tn have warned oil firms and banks to shun moves by the US president, Donald Trump, to open the Arctic national wildlife refuge (ANWR) to drilling.

Companies extracting oil and gas from the wilderness area in Alaska would face "enormous reputational risk and public backlash", the investors say in a letter sent on Monday to 100 fossil fuel companies and the banks that finance them.

Exploiting the area would also be an "irresponsible business decision", the group argues, as global action on climate change will reduce oil demand and mean such projects have a high risk of losing money. An accompanying letter from the indigenous Gwich'in people say it would be "deeply unethical" to destroy their homelands.

The 19m-acre refuge is one of wildest places left on Earth and the largest area of publicly owned land in the U.S.; it is home to a huge range of animals, including polar bears, snowy owls and the porcupine caribou on which the Gwich'in rely for food.

In April, the Trump administration began the process of opening the ANWR for oil and gas drilling, the first such move since 1980. Significant oil and gas reserves are thought to lie under the ANWR coastal plain and Prudhoe Bay, a major oil centre, lies close to the refuge's western boundary. The Gwich'in name for the coastal plain is "Sacred place where life begins", as it is the breeding ground of the caribou.

"Drilling in the ANWR is an exceedingly high-risk gamble that companies and investors should avoid," said New York state comptroller, Thomas P DiNapoli, trustee of the New York



Porcupine caribou cross the Turner river in the Arctic national wildlife refuge during summer. Photograph: Rex/Shutterstock

State Common Retirement Fund, one of the investors that signed the letter. "A global low-carbon economy is emerging, driven by the growing opportunities for cleaner energy. We want the companies [we invest in] to help build that future, not destroy one of America's last truly wild places."

"There is no longer any doubt that climate change poses an acute risk not only to our collective way of life, but also to investments made in outdated and highly precarious forms of energy," said Thibaud Clisson at BNP Paribas Asset Man-

agement, another signatory.

Bernadette Demientieff, executive director of the Gwich'in steering committee, said: "We call on oil companies and the banks that fund them to stand with the Gwich'in and leave this pristine and fragile place intact. The survival of my people depends on it."

However, Alaska's congressional representatives, who are all Republican, strongly support the drilling plan, suggesting it could bring in \$1bn to state and federal governments in the next decade. When the plan to open the ANWR for oil and gas exploitation was announced, senator Lisa Murkowski said it was "the single-most important step we can take to strengthen our long-term energy security and create new wealth".

Murkowski, also chairman of the Senate committee on energy and natural resources, said: "Responsible development is limited to just 2,000 federal acres – just one ten-thousandth of all of ANWR."

But the letter from the Gwich'in steering committee says: "This place was originally set aside by President Dwight Eisenhower in 1960 as a refuge, not for development. Roads, pipelines, gravel mines, airstrips and other facilities that would be developed to support exploration and development on the coastal plain would undermine the wilderness character of the Refuge, fragment habitat and displace wildlife. And oil spills, which already occur on the North Slope, would harm fish and wildlife."

(Source: The Guardian)

‘Welfare organization supports cafés run by disabled people’



SOCIETY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iran's Welfare Organization provides financial support to set up cafés which are run by people suffering from different kinds of mental and physical disabilities, an official with the organization has said.


Commenting on Downtism Café, a café in Tehran run by teenagers with autism and Down syndrome, Hossein Nahvinejad explained that such deeds would not only create job opportunities for these groups of people but also empower them to become contributing members of society, Tasnim reported.

Financial support is not the only way to help people who are physically or mentally challenged, Nahvinejad said, adding that being functional within society and contributing work can make society more inclusive for people with disabilities.


Downtism Café is the first-ever café in Iran run by ten teenagers with autism and Down syndrome. The café opened in northern Tehran on May 1. Downtism is made up of two words of autism and down which refers to their disorders.

According to NPR, "less than one in five disabled adults are employed." CNN Money also stated that, "disabled workers earn about \$9,000 less a year than non-disabled workers, according to Census data on median earnings. That gap was under \$6,000 in the early 1990s." The disability community is still discriminated against at work from being refused a job or denied a final interview. But when it comes down to it, employers need to see a person, including his/her disability, as an asset and not a potential liability.

Second Announcement



N.I.O.C
1397.593



National Iranian
Drilling Company

Public Call Of Tender						
One-Stage						
TENDER GUARANTEE		ESTIMATED VALUE (Rial)	Subject of Tender	Tenders Portal Reg. No.	TENDER NO. / INDENT NO	No
Euro	Rial					
13,194	663,000,000	13,245,700,000	P/F "FANN" API/LPLT LOW PRESSURE FILTER PRESS, SERIES 300	3,161,141	Tender No.: FP/09-97/003 Indent No.:01-22-9646009	1

Brief discription of subject:
National Iranian Drilling Company(NIDC) address pasdaran Blev., Airport Saqare, Ahvaz, Iran hereby intends to purchase its requirements from qualified and interested tenderers through one-stage public tender upon following terms and conditions:

A) Competence of tenderers:
The tenderers should not have legal restrictive to participation governmental to tenderers , also they should provide statute or business license related to subject of the tender.

B) Preparation of tender documents:
Purchasing of documents:
In order to receive the tender documents, **510,000 Rials** should be paid to account number 4001114004020491 in central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran under the title of "centralized income funds" of National Iranian Drilling Company and providing the original deposit receipt.

Reciving of documents:
Tenderers must be obtain the tender documents maximum ten days after the date of second publication till May 27, 2018 in person at the following address: Hall No.:113, 1thfloor, Foreign Procurement Dept., National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN
Notice: Only the real or legal persons who apply to purchase and recieve tender ducments from foreign procurment department in due date and participates in tendervill be known as tenderer from tender committee.

C) Delivery of bids envelopes:
Tenderers shall submit simultaneously envelopes of bids including (A) Tender bank guarantee, (B) stamped and signed of tender ducments, (C) The priced signed and stamped of the same Technical-Commercial sheets maximum till Jun 30,2018 to the following address: Hall No.:107, 1thfloor ,Tender Committee, Building operations, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN.
Notice: The deadline for the refusal of bidders participation in the the tender is the last day of determined for submission of bids.

D) The envelopes will be opened at Jul 1st ,2018 On 9:00

E) Tender Guarantee:
Type of guarantee:
A)Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that have activites licensed by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
B) The original cash deposit receipt paid to the account number 4001114006376636 under the title of "centralized guarantee funds" of National Iranian Drilling Company to the central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran.

Duration of credit guarantee & quotation:
This duration should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum For one time in initial credit amount.
More on this & other tenders is accessible by click on. WWW.NIDC.IR
News Channel of NIDC : @nide_pr
Foreign Procurement Dept
National Iranian Drilling Company

تهران تایمز نوبت اول ۹۷/۰۲/۲۵ نوبت دوم ۹۷/۰۲/۲۶

Israeli bloodshed in Gaza as Palestine marks Nakba Day

World condemns Israeli carnage, U.S. embassy move green light for Israel to kill Palestinians

1→ Protesters demanded an end to the decades-long Israeli occupation of their lands and properties.

Tensions have flared across the Palestinian territories since last December, when the United States declared al-Quds (Jerusalem) in the Tel Aviv-occupied West Bank as the regime's so-called capital, and said the American embassy would be transferred from Tel Aviv to the holy city.

Palestinians have historically sought the city's eastern part as the capital of their future state.

■ U.S. embassy move, green light for Israeli forces to kill Palestinians

Monday, which marked the bloodiest day for Palestinians since the 2014 Gaza war, also saw the official relocation of the American embassy from Tel Aviv to the occupied al-Quds (Jerusalem).

Both friends and foes of Washington have voiced criticism as it illegally declared an occupied city of al-Quds as Israel's "capital," saying it would throw an already trouble-ridden region into more chaos.

The dramatic decision triggered demonstrations in the occupied Palestinian territories as well as Iran, Turkey, Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria, Iraq, Morocco and other Muslim countries.

The status of al-Quds (Jerusalem) is the thorniest issue in the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The Palestinians see East al-Quds (Jerusalem) as the capital of their future state.

■ Jared Kushner: Palestinian protesters are 'part of the problem'

Meantime, Jared Kushner told the crowd at the opening of the U.S. embassy in al-Quds (Jerusalem) that he was optimistic about the prospects for peace in the area.

"We believe it is possible for both sides to gain more than they give so that all people can live in peace, safe from danger, free from fear, and able to pursue their dreams," Kushner told the crowd. Kushner, the President's son-in-law and senior adviser, has been tasked with overseeing Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts.

Kushner did address the violence at the border, saying the protesters were "part of the problem."

"As we have seen from the protests of the last month and even today, those provoking violence are part of the problem and not part of the solution," he said. The comment was not included in the excerpts of his remarks delivered to the press ahead of time.

Kushner was among the delegation from the White House attending the opening of the embassy, which was led by Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan. He was joined by his wife Ivanka Trump, Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman, and U.S. envoy for Middle East negotiations Jason Greenblatt. Several Republican lawmakers, including South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham and Texas Senator Ted Cruz, were also in attendance.

Kushner also praised President Trump for standing firm in his desire to move the embassy from Tel Aviv to al-Quds (Jerusalem), noting that other Presidents have made similar promises as candidates only to buck them once they were in office. "This President delivered," said Kushner. "Because when President Trump makes a promise, he keeps it."

■ WH: Palestinians responsible for Israel's massacre of Gaza protesters

The White House has defended Israel's deadly crackdown on protesters in the Gaza Strip, laying the blame on Palestinians for partaking in demonstrations "organized" by the Islamic resistance movement Hamas.

"We believe that Hamas is responsible for what's going on," White House deputy press secretary Raj Shah said in a press briefing. "We believe that Hamas as an organization is engaged in cynical action that is leading to these deaths."

"Hamas is intentionally and cynically provoking this response," he claimed, adding, that "Israel has the right to defend itself."

■ 'Every nation has the right to choose its capital,' Schumer backs Trump

The top Democrat in the U.S. Senate has thrown his support for Trump's controversial relocation of the country's embassy in Israel. "In a long overdue move, we have moved our embassy to Jerusalem. Every nation should have the right to choose its capital," Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer said in a statement. "I sponsored legislation to do this two decades ago, and I applaud President Trump for doing it."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu praised Israeli forces who killed over 50 Palestinians, among them several children, for "protecting the borders of Israel as we speak today."

■ U.S. ramps up security out of fear

The opening ceremony of the new U.S. embassy was held amid tightened security measures by both Israel and the U.S.

The U.S. military announced later on Monday that an unspecified number of Marines had been dispatched to a number of countries in the region to protect American embassies against possible attacks.

■ World condemns Israeli savagery as fears of more deaths in Gaza grow

The Israeli carnage in Gaza and the transfer of the U.S. embassy prompted international condemnations, with the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) expected to convene an emergency meeting on Tuesday to address the situation in Palestine.

France also spoke out against the U.S. move, saying along with many other critics that it violated "unambiguous" international law and UN Security Council resolutions.

President Emmanuel Macron condemned the violence against



Palestinian demonstrators in Gaza in a statement released late on Monday and reiterated his opposition to the relocation of the U.S. diplomatic mission.

"(Macron) lamented the large number of Palestinian civilian casualties in Gaza today and over the past few weeks," the French presidency said, adding, "He condemned the violence of Israeli armed forces against demonstrators."

Premier Sa'ad Hariri of Lebanon, which has fought two major Israeli wars, said the embassy move had spelt a "dead-end" for all paths to regional peace.

Jordan's King Abdullah also stressed Amman rejects and condemns "the blatant acts of aggression and violence perpetrated by Israel" against Palestinians in Gaza.

Around 250 Jordanians gathered near the U.S. embassy in Jordan's capital on Monday to protest the pro-Israeli American decisions.

Iraq also called the relocation an "entirely unacceptable" measure of dangerous security and political implications for the region.

Meanwhile, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov reiterated Moscow's objection to the controversial U.S. move, saying Moscow "has several times offered a platform" for talks on the status of Jerusalem al-Quds.

"We firmly believe that it is inappropriate to unilaterally revise the decisions of the international community in this way," the top Russian diplomat said.

Moroccan King Mohammed VI also denounced Washington's "unilateral decision."

Meanwhile, Hamma Hammami, spokesman of the Tunisian Workers' Party, said the embassy relocation translates into "the burial of the Palestinian cause," condemning "reactionary Arab establishments" for alienating their people from the cause.

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry, in a statement, voiced "strong denunciation" of Israel's use of force against Palestinian civilians and said Cairo "totally supports the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, and first and foremost its right to an independent state with East Jerusalem [al-Quds] as its capital."

The new government in Malaysia also said it "strongly opposes" the embassy relocation.

"Malaysia firmly believes that the move would further undermine and jeopardize efforts towards finding a comprehensive and lasting solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict," said the government led by the recent electoral victor Mahathir Mohamad.

In Indonesia, thousands of Indonesian Muslims gathered at the city center of Jakarta to rally support for Palestinians and condemn the U.S. moves.

The Muslim country has set up a hospital in the Gaza Strip, which rendered services to those wounded during the Monday protests.

Doctors Without Borders (MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières) called on the Israeli army to stop using deadly force against demonstrators, saying their actions were "unacceptable and inhuman."

"This bloodbath is the continuation of the Israeli army's policy during the last seven weeks: shooting with live ammunition at demonstrators, on the assumption that anyone approaching the separation fence is a legitimate target," Marie-Elisabeth Ingres, the group's representative in Gaza, said in a statement.

Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop called on Israel to be "proportionate in its response and refrain from excessive use of force."

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres was "profoundly alarmed" by the violence in Gaza and urged Israeli forces to "exercise maximum restraint in the use of live fire," his deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said.

■ Erdogan accuses Israel of genocide

Meanwhile, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has accused Tel Aviv of "state terror" and "genocide."

"Israel is wreaking state terror. Israel is a terror state," Erdogan addressed Turkish students in London via a televised speech. "What Israel has done is a genocide. I condemn this humanitarian drama, the

genocide, from whichever side it comes, Israel or America," he added.

Turkey has also called for an emergency meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to be held on Friday.

In a phone call with Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas, Erdogan "condemned the attacks and wished Allah's mercy to all martyrs," according to the official Anadolu news agency. Turkey is recalling its ambassadors to Washington and Tel Aviv for consultations, according to state-run Anadolu Agency.

Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim also accused the U.S. of sharing responsibility with Israel for a "vile massacre" along the Gaza border, during which dozens of Palestinians were killed by Israeli fire on Monday.

The United States took its place without complaint alongside the Israeli regime in "this massacre of civilians and became a party to this crime against humanity," Yildirim told reporters in Ankara.

Deputy Prime Minister Bekir Bozdogan also announced that Ankara was recalling its ambassadors to the United States and Israel "for consultations" following the killings.

■ South Africa recalls ambassador to Israel

South Africa also recalled its ambassador to Israel in protest to the recent bloodshed.

"Given the indiscriminate and grave manner of the latest Israeli attack, the South African government has taken a decision to recall Ambassador Sisa Ngombane with immediate effect until further notice," said South Africa's Foreign Ministry in a statement.

It added that victims were taking part in a "peaceful protest against the provocative inauguration of the U.S. embassy in Jerusalem" and went on to slam "the latest act of violent aggression carried out by Israeli armed forces along the Gaza border."

The statement added that South Africa calls for Israeli forces to pull out of the Gaza Strip and end its "violent and destructive incursions into Palestinian territories."

■ Qatar blasts Israeli carnage

Qatar's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Lulwah Rashid al-Khater said Doha condemns Tel Aviv's "genocide" in the strongest terms possible, and calls on all regional and extra-regional powers to stop the Israeli "killing machine."

Qatari Foreign ministry spokeswoman Lulwah al-Khater strongly condemned "the massacre" of Palestinians.

Khater further called on the international community to take action and stop "the savage killings."

"We condemned what has happened," Kuwaiti ambassador to the United Nations, Mansour al-Otaibi, said on Monday.

■ Saudi regime censures killings, doesn't mention embassy move

The House of Saud regime condemned the demonstrators' killing without referring to the controversial inauguration of the U.S. embassy in al-Quds (Jerusalem).

"Saudi Arabia strongly condemns the Israeli occupation forces' gunfire against unarmed Palestinian civilians which has left dozens dead and wounded," said a Saudi Foreign Ministry spokesperson.

He further called on the international community to "take responsibility and put an end to the violence against the Palestinians", while stressing Riyadh's support for the "rights of the Palestinian people."

■ Syria decries 'brutal massacre'

"Syria condemns... the brutal massacre carried out by the Israeli occupation against unarmed Palestinian civilians," said Syrian Foreign Ministry official.

The official also condemned the "criminal and illegitimate" relocation of the U.S. mission to al-Quds (Jerusalem).

He also said the administration of Trump bore "responsibility for the blood of Palestinian martyrs."

■ Israeli childish justification

In a statement, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) accused the Palestinian militant group Hamas, which controls Gaza, of "leading a terrorist operation" and inciting the protesters, who had assembled

in numerous locations along the border fence, to conduct what Israel described as terror attacks.

Israeli military officials, however, said the killings were justified because the protests were a cover for a "terrorist operation."

■ Palestine United, U.S. out

Following the relocation of U.S. embassy, Palestinian leaders have clearly crossed out Washington's stated role as a mediator to bring about peace in the region.

Palestinian Authority (PA) President Abbas convened an emergency government meeting on Monday afternoon and announced a general strike and three days of mourning, both to start on Tuesday.

"Today is one of the most ferocious days our people have seen," Abbas said, before turning his thoughts to the newly-anointed U.S. Embassy. "Before we were suffering from illegal Israeli settlements. Now it's another illegal settlement by the Israel and the United States."

Abbas said that the U.S. had established an "American outpost settlement in East Jerusalem" by opening its embassy.

While referring to the Palestinian deaths as a "massacre" he announced three days of mourning and a general strike to be held on Tuesday.

He also said "the U.S. is no longer a mediator in the Middle East," and the new embassy was tantamount to "a new American settler outpost" in al-Quds.

The Palestinian Hamas resistance movement also vowed protests would continue.

"We say clearly today to all the world that the peaceful march of our people lured the enemy into shedding more blood," senior Hamas official Khalil al-Hayya said.

He added that Hamas's military wing "will not prolong their silence over the crimes of the occupation."

■ U.S. blocks UNSC Gaza violence probe

A proposed UN Security Council press statement, put forward by Kuwait, was blocked by the U.S., according to a UN diplomat.

Kuwait, a non-permanent UNSC member, called for an emergency session of the Council in the wake of the massacre of nearly 60 Palestinians at the hands of Israeli forces on Monday.

The draft statement, which was provided to CNN by a UN diplomat, included language expressing "outrage and sorrow at the killing of Palestinian civilians exercising their right to peaceful protest."

It also reaffirmed UN resolutions on the status of al-Quds (Jerusalem), saying that recent events had "no legal effect" under international law. The statement was not passed by the Security Council, after being withdrawn once the U.S. blocked it, according to a UN diplomat.

According the AFP, the U.S. blocked a UN Security Council statement which would have called for an independent probe of deadly violence in Gaza.

■ Corbyn urges Britain to act against Israeli slaughter of Palestinians

Elsewhere, British Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn has urged the government of Prime Minister Theresa May to take action against Israel's "slaughter" of Palestinian anti-occupation protesters in Gaza.

He said London should address Israel's "multiple abuses of human and political rights Palestinians face on a daily basis, the 11-year siege of Gaza, the continuing 50-year occupation of Palestinian territory and the ongoing expansion of illegal settlements."

Corbyn also pledged to review Britain's arms sales to Israel once he becomes prime minister.

■ UNSC members want resolution on Israeli settlements enforced

Two-thirds of the 15 UNSC member states have raised alarm over the non-implementation of a 2016 resolution which urges the Israeli regime to stop its settlement expansion on occupied Palestinian territory.

In a letter addressed to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and seen by Reuters on Tuesday, 10 UNSC member states said they were writing to express "profound concern about the lack of implementation" of Resolution 2334.

"The Security Council must stand behind its resolutions and ensure they have meaning; otherwise, we risk undermining the credibility of the international system," the letter read.

The council approved Resolution 2334 on December 23, 2016 by a vote of 14-0 when former American president Barack Obama's administration abstained, stopping short of vetoing the anti-Israel document in a rare move.

The resolution states that "it will not recognize any changes to the 4 June 1967 lines, including with regard to Jerusalem [al-Quds], other than those agreed by the parties through negotiations."

Israel occupied the West Bank and East al-Quds (Jerusalem) during the Six Day War in 1967. It later annexed East al-Quds (Jerusalem) in a move not recognized by the international community.

A new report says Israel expanded its illegal settlement construction by 17 percent in 2017.

Elsewhere, Resolution 2334 states that Israel's establishment of "settlements in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East al-Quds (Jerusalem), has no legal validity and constitutes a flagrant violation under international law and a major obstacle to the achievement of the two-state solution and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace."

It further calls on Israel to "immediately and completely cease all settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East al-Quds (Jerusalem), and that it fully respect all of its legal obligations in this regard."

About 600,000 Israelis live in over 230 settlements built illegally since the 1967 occupation of the Palestinian lands.

Iraq's Abadi congratulates Shia cleric Sadr on election win

1→ Sadr's bloc did not run in the remaining two provinces, Kurdish Dohuk and the ethnically-mixed oil province of Kirkuk. The results there, which may be delayed due to tensions between local parties, will not affect Sadr's standing.

Reports indicate that Sairoon - an alliance between the Sadrist Movement and Iraq's Communist Party - won more than 1.3 million votes, gaining 54 of a 329-seat parliament.

Saturday's elections were the first in Iraq since the defeat of

ISIL terrorist group last year by Iraqi forces and a U.S.-led coalition. The elections will decide the 329 members of the Council of Representatives who will in turn elect the Iraqi president and prime minister.

The elections were originally scheduled for September 2017, but were delayed due to the country's fight against Islamic State, which ended in December 2017 with the recapture of their remaining territories.

(Source: Iraqi News)



Russia to host Syria peace talks in July

Russia, Turkey and Iran will hold the next round of their Syrian peace talks in July in the Russian city of Sochi, not in the Kazakh capital Astana like their previous meetings, the three countries said Tuesday.

The Syrian rebels said they would boycott the talks due to Russia's role as host. Since they began last year, the trilateral meetings have taken place in Kazakhstan, which is not involved in the Syrian war - unlike Russia which backs President Bashar Assad and has helped him turn the tide of war by deploying its own troops.

The July meeting announcement came from the latest round of Astana talks. The reason for the change in location for the next talks was unclear.

"We understand that this looks rather strange, but ... taking into account the



situation on the ground, the new realities, we would like to give new momentum to further work, shifting the focus more towards the political and humanitarian components," Russia's chief negotiator Alexander Lavrentyev told reporters in Astana.

Rebel negotiator Yasser Abdel-Rahim

said the move was unacceptable.

"If they invite us, we will not go to Sochi, the armed rebels will not go to Sochi because we must respect our people," he told a briefing in Astana. "Russian forces have not stopped killing Syrian people."

Russia, Iran and Turkey began holding regular talks on the Syrian conflict in Astana at the start of 2017.

In a statement on this latest round, which ends Tuesday, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said it had made clear its "reservations on the forced evacuation operations conducted in Eastern Ghouta and in the north of Homs, as well as on the law that paves the way for the confiscation of the properties of Syrian refugees and IDPs [internally displaced people]."

(Source: Reuters)

Germany coach Loew agrees contract extension to 2022 - DFB

Germany coach Joachim Loew has agreed to extend his contract with the world champions to 2022, he said on Tuesday before the unveiling of his preliminary World Cup squad.

Loew, whose current deal runs out in 2020, has been in charge for 12 years and in 2014 led Germany to their fourth World Cup title.

“This is a big responsibility to continue developing players,” the 58-year-old told reporters after German Football Association President Reinhard Grindel said they had agreed to extend their current deal by two more years.

“To work with the best players in Germany, then develop them and to make them better, to form a team that sets the highest goals, this is what drives and still gives me joy.”

Loew has been in charge for 160 matches, winning 106, more than any other Germany coach.

He started out as assistant to Juergen Klinsmann after only limited coaching experience in club football.

Loew took over after the 2006 World Cup in Germany and has led his country to at least the semi-finals in all of the five major tournaments for which he has been at the helm.

“We did not need long to get a conclusion,” Grindel said. “We will extend the contract of Joachim Loew and the entire training team until 2022.”

Germany will face Mexico, Sweden and South Korea in Group F at next month’s World Cup in Russia.

(Source: Reuters)

England defender Mawson has surgery, ruled out of World Cup

Swansea City defender Alfie Mawson has had knee surgery and is out of contention for England’s World Cup squad, British media reported on Tuesday.

The 24-year-old centre-back has yet to make his England debut but was called up by manager Gareth Southgate for friendlies in March against the Netherlands and Italy.

Swansea were relegated from the Premier League on Sunday, leaving Mawson’s club future in doubt with the former England under-21 international linked to several top clubs.

Sky Sports reported that Southgate told Mawson before the operation that he was unlikely to be called up for the tournament starting in Russia next month.

It said the player had therefore decided to have surgery as soon as possible to be in the best shape for next season.

(Source: Goal)

Paris Saint-Germain confirm Thomas Tuchel as new coach

Thomas Tuchel, Borussia Dortmund’s former coach, who has spent the current season on sabbatical, will take over at Paris Saint-Germain, the French champions confirmed on Monday, ending weeks of speculation.

It is the 44-year-old German’s first coaching position abroad; he had several successful seasons with Mainz before taking over the Dortmund job from Jürgen Klopp.

“It is with great joy, pride and ambition that I join this great global football club that is Paris Saint-Germain,” Tuchel said in a statement released on Monday by PSG. “I’m impatient to start working with all these great players, all of whom are among the best on the planet.

With my staff, we will do everything to help the team push their limits to the highest international level. There is tremendous potential in Paris and this is the most exciting challenge that has come to me.”

Tuchel also described himself as impatient to experience the atmosphere in the Parc des Princes, calling it a “mythical stadium” in European football. Following Dortmund’s Westfalenstadion (officially the Signal Iduna Park nowadays), the fans and stadium in Paris may have a tough act to follow.

(Source: DW)

Mancini aims to ‘bring Italy back’ - and may recall Mario Balotelli

New Italy manager Roberto Mancini hopes to restore the Azzurri to their former glory - and may recall Mario Balotelli.

Mancini was appointed on Tuesday after Italy failed to qualify for the World Cup for the first time since 1958.

“I hope that I can be the person who brings Italy back to a significant triumph,” he said. “I will certainly speak with Balotelli also.”

The striker, 27, played under Mancini at Inter Milan and Manchester City but has not played for Italy since 2014.

After unsuccessful spells with Liverpool and AC Milan, Balotelli has rebuilt his reputation with Nice in Ligue 1.

But Italy have dropped to their lowest-ever Fifa ranking of 20th after the four-time winners missed out on this year’s World Cup in Russia.

Mancini, 53, has managed Galatasaray and Zenit St Petersburg since leading Manchester City to their first Premier League title in 2012.

“The failure to qualify for the World Cup caused mourning and this shows how important it is for our country,” he added.

“To coach the national team is a reason to be proud for anyone. I think that it’s the right moment for me.

“To be able to win something with Italy would be unique. It’s a difficult time and there’s a lot to do.”

Mancini’s first match in charge will be a friendly against Saudi Arabia on 28 May before Italy play France and Holland in June.

(Source: BBC)

Muscovites ready to welcome football fans ahead of the World Cup

When nations spend big on sporting events like the World Cup and the Olympics, the question is invariably asked: is it worth it?

For many Russians, the answer is a resounding yes -- but their reasoning tends to go beyond a mere interest in football.

Some Russians hope the investment will detract the government from spending on its military. Others hope the tournament will give the world a better impression of Russia and its people.

Tensions between the UK and Russia have escalated in the aftermath of the poisoning of former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia in southwest England in early March. More than 20 countries expelled Russian diplomats as a result, with Russia retaliating in kind.

And in April, the US unleashed new sanctions on Russian oligarchs and government officials to punish Putin’s inner circle for interfering in the 2016 US election in addition to other, ongoing aggressions in places like Syria, Crimea and the Ukraine. But with 30 days to go until the World Cup, many Russians say they will welcome international football fans with a warm embrace.

On a bitter spring afternoon in central Moscow, Sergey, 50 and Aleksandr, 58 said they were proud that Russia was hosting the World Cup, both certain that Russia would win. Both men preferred not to give CNN their surnames.

The pair said the event was a chance for Russia to rebuild a relationship with the international sporting community in the wake of the state-sponsored doping scandal -- leading up to and including the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics -- which led to Russia being banned from the 2018 Winter Games in PyeongChang.

“It’s a chance to demonstrate something,” Sergey said. “That our country is still for sport, that they were wrong about the Olympics,” Aleksandr added.

■ ‘Sports, not guns’

Although the ban’s since been lifted, revelations of the state-sponsored doping program took a toll on Russia’s reputation in sport. And so did the economic cost: in February, Russia paid \$15 million in anti-doping fines.

The World Cup has come at a great cost to the now stable Russian economy, which fell into a deep recession following Western sanctions and crashing oil prices in 2015.

Yet Aleksandr believes the investment -- valued at an estimated \$10B -- will bring positive returns. New sporting



facilities and improvements to old infrastructure will give young athletes better training opportunities, he said.

“We need to invest in sports, not only guns,” Aleksandr added wryly. Russia is the third largest spender on military in the world, after the US and China. In 2016, Russia boosted its military spending to \$69.2 billion, 5.4% of its GDP.

■ ‘Russian way of behavior’

Across town, law student Svyatoslav Zalevski applauded any large investment outside of the military complex.

Sipping a coffee outside the Ploshchad Revolyutsii metro station Zalevski, 21, said: “If we take into account that our country spends 70 billion [USD] on weapons, that [the World Cup] was the right way to invest. Investing into culture and sport is good. Economy and culture are the best investments.”

Tickets are also a sizeable investment for most Russians

who earn on average, \$653 a month. Opening day games cost around 18,200 rubles (approximately \$289), according to ticket prices posted on FIFA’s website in September.

The high cost is OK with Zalevski, who believes the price point will also help to “filter” out hooliganism.

“Uneducated and low-level people won’t be able to afford it,” he said, adding that visiting fans won’t need to worry about violence as a result.

But they should keep in mind the “Russian way of behavior.”

“A Russian person can be a bit aggressive,” Zalevski said, quickly adding, “but I think this year it won’t be that way.”

Inside the nearby GUM shopping mall, Lokomotive supporter Ariadna Korotkova, wrapped in her winter coat, was eating blackcurrant ice cream.

(Source: CNN)

Fulham beat Derby to reach playoff final



Fulham beat Derby County 2-0 (2-1 aggregate) at Craven Cottage on Monday to move into the final of the Championship playoffs where they will play Aston Villa or Middlesbrough.

Second half goals from Ryan Sessegnon and Denis Odoi earned Fulham the victory as they seek a return to the Premier League which they were relegated from in 2014.

Derby have now missed out in the playoffs three times in the past five seasons.

The playoff final will be held at Wembley Stadium on May 26. Villa host Middlesbrough on Tuesday and lead 1-0 from the first leg.

Fulham attacked from the outset but Derby keeper Scott Carson frustrated them throughout the first half with a series of fine saves.

A one-handed effort kept out a strong header from Fulham’s Serbian striker Aleksandar Mitrovic and Carson was at his best again to keep out a powerful drive from Aboubakar Kamara.

But Slavisa Jokanovic’s side finally got reward for the efforts two minutes after

the interval when 17-year-old Sessegnon showed great composure to drive home a left-foot shot from inside the area.

The decisive goal came in the 66th minute when Belgian Odoi beat Carson with a brilliantly angled header from a corner.

Fulham head to Wembley for the first time since they lost the FA Cup final to West Ham in 1975.

“This club needs this kind of happiness,” said Jokanovic, “After 43 years we will play at Wembley and it is an important achievement for us.

“We deserve this victory and a chance to reach the Premier League. The players showed great belief and confidence and it is credit to my players,” he said.

Derby boss Gary Rowett felt his team had been too nervous.

“I think our composure let us down tonight, we made far too many mistakes on the ball, we looked a bit edgy to be honest,” he said.

“They outplayed us in the second-leg and they more than deserve to go through.”

(Source: Mirror)

Ozil and Gundogan’s Erdogan photos cause German furore



The German Football Federation (DFB) has criticised its internationals Mesut Özil and Ilkay Gundogan for posing in photos with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The two German-born players, both of Turkish origin, gave Mr Erdogan signed shirts at an event in London on Sunday.

Gundogan wrote: “For my honoured President, with great respect.” Mr Erdogan is campaigning for re-election.

Özil plays for Arsenal and Gundogan for Manchester City. Both players are preparing for next month’s Fifa World Cup in Russia, in which Germany is among the favorites. Turkey did not qualify.

Many German politicians have also criticized the footballers, questioning their loyalty to German democratic values.

DFB president Reinhard Grindel said: “Football and the DFB defend values which are not sufficiently respected by Mr Erdogan.

“That’s why it’s not good that our international players let themselves be manipulated for his electoral campaign. In doing that, our players have certainly not helped the DFB’s work on integration.”

DFB director Oliver Bierhoff said: “Neither one of them was aware of the symbolic value of this photo, but it’s clearly not right and we’ll be talking to them about it”.

In his youth, before entering politics in the 1990s, Mr Erdogan played football semi-professionally for an Istanbul team, Kasimpasa. Mr Erdogan, in power for the past 15 years, is seeking re-election in a snap poll on 24 June. His Islamist-rooted AK Party has cracked down hard on opponents, especially since the July 2016 coup attempt by military officers. Turkish police have arrested more than 50,000 people accused of links to US-based Islamic cleric Fethullah Gulen or to Kurdish separatists. They include opposition activists, journalists, teachers, lawyers and other public servants.

Mr Erdogan has also purged the military, police and judiciary, putting many state officials on trial. He has created a powerful presidency since winning an April 2017 referendum on constitutional changes, enabling him to dominate parliament and control the judiciary.

(Source: BBC)

Ill Tapie relishing another Olympique de Marseille final



Tapie believes the collective force of the team has been key to their success in the competition.

“You cannot single out a player. You have to look at the general profile of this team. They are proud, brave and hard-working,” he said.

■ Embrace the moment

Since their 1993 triumph, France’s only title in Europe’s

Former Olympique de Marseille president Bernard Tapie, who led the club to the Champions League title in 1993, is relishing their presence in the Europa League final -- and he has a piece of advice for Rudi Garcia’s team.

The 75-year-old, who has been battling stomach cancer, will probably not be able to attend Wednesday’s final against Atletico Madrid in Lyon, but seeing OM gunning for another European title is a great source of comfort.

“What I go through with OM now is helping me to an incredible extent,” Tapie told L’Equipe earlier this month.

A charismatic president of Marseille from 1986 to 1994, he was at the helm when OM beat AC Milan 1-0 in the final of the Champions League before being sent to prison for corruption in a match-fixing scandal in the French first division.

The former businessman and Minister of City Affairs has been keeping a sharp eye on his former club despite his illness.

“Om are not among the top 10 teams in Europe yet they are in the final of the Europa League, something Arsenal, Lazio and Lyon could not do,” he said.

premium club competition, Marseille have played in two UEFA Cup finals but were comprehensively beaten, 3-0 by Parma in 1999 and 2-0 by Valencia in 2004.

This time, according to Tapie, Marseille should embrace the moment and the pressure that goes with it.

“Before Bari (where OM lost the 1991 European Cup final to Red Star Belgrade on penalties), we had so much desire that it became counter-productive,” he said.

“We were tense and we lost focus, while what you must look for is relaxation and concentration, something we achieved in 1993.

“OM will have nothing to lose (against Atletico). It must be felt in the way they prepare the game and in the way they are going to play it.”

Tapie will probably be in bed when the match kicks off at Lyon’s Groupama stadium, although after OM beat Salzburg in the semi-finals following extra time he said that should his condition slightly improve, he might make the trip.

“If there is any improvement, I can change my mind on the morning of the game. But that will not be easy,” he said.

(Source: Euronews)

Carlos Queiroz’s Iran future unclear

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Team Melli are preparing to make history in the 2018 World Cup under guidance of Carlos Queiroz but there are rumors over the Portuguese’s future.

Without a shadow of a doubt, Iran national football team will be headed by Queiroz in Russia but his future after the World Cup remains uncertain.

Queiroz didn’t participate in the draw ceremony of the AFC Asian Cup UAE 2019 which was held in Dubai in early May.

Ex-Real Madrid coach said he didn’t attend the ceremony because his current contract expires after the 2018 World Cup and he is not Iran coach at that time.

In recent days, Queiroz has slammed Iran football federation over lack of preparation for the 2018 World Cup.

It’s not the first time that the Iranian federation has been questioned by the former Manchester United assistant coach but this time Queiroz has no trouble finding the words to express his reluctance to continue with Team Melli.

The Iranian media reports suggest that Queiroz will most likely quit Team Melli after the 2018 World Cup.

Some have speculated the split between him and Iran football federation but there is ‘no smoke without fire’.

Iran’s draw in the 2018 World Cup is cruel. Facing three continent’s powerhouse teams will be far from easy; however, Team Melli are a favorite to win the AFC Asian Cup UAE 2019.

Queiroz has led Iran to back-to-back World Cups but has yet to win a title with Team Melli. The Persians have a good chance of bringing an end to a 42-year title drought in Asia. Now, we’ll see what happens.



Former Esteghlal player JIloyd Samuel killed in car crash

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — The former Esteghlal defender JIloyd Samuel died in a car crash in the north west of England on Tuesday morning, the Trinidad and Tobago Football Association have announced.

The 37-year-old player was understood to be on the way home after dropping his kids off at school when he collided with a truck on a country lane near Warrington.

JIloyd Samuel played for Iranian football team Esteghlal for three years and helped the Blues win title in Iran’s Hazfi Cup in 2012 and Iranian league in 2013.

He also played for another Iranian club Paykan for one year. Samuel played for Aston Villa and Bolton Wanderers in



the top-flight and represented England at Under-21 level.

He switched allegiances to play for Trinidad and Tobago in 2009 and won two senior caps for the twin island republic.

“We’ve received some terrible news that former national defender and Ex-Aston Villa and Bolton Wanderers player JIloyd Samuel died in a car crash this morning in England,” a statement read.

“The Trinidad and Tobago Football Association and his former national teammates at this time extends deepest condolences to his family members both in the UK and here in Trinidad and Tobago,” it added.

Iran need quality from Jahanbakhsh, Azmoun but progress unlikely

The 2018 World Cup is just over a month away, and all 32 teams are preparing in earnest for their shot at the trophy in Russia. ESPN FC is previewing every team ahead of the opening game on June 14.

Who they are

Captain: Ashkan Dejagah

Manager: Carlos Queiroz

Nickname: Team Melli

FIFA rank (as of April 12, 2018): 36

How they qualified

The road to Russia could not have been smoother and straighter for Iran, who became the second team (after Brazil) to secure a spot. All the team had to do was finish in the top two in the third round of qualification, and it was never in doubt. Not only did they finish first and unbeaten, but Iran, now preparing for a fifth World Cup, didn’t concede a single goal until the 10th and final game after qualification had already been achieved.

Biggest strength

Iran’s defense took the headlines in qualification, but what makes the difference between the team that finished bottom of their 2014 World Cup group and this version is the attacking options open to the coach Queiroz. Winger Alireza Jahanbakhsh and striker Sardar Azmoun would dribble and shoot their way into any Asian team, but there is more. Saman Ghodds has enjoyed an excellent season in Sweden and is set for a move to a bigger league this summer, though he can’t yet be sure of a starting place.

Mehdi Taremi is one of the top strikers in Asia but could be on the bench, and the same can be said for Karim Ansarifard, the joint top scorer in the Greek league this season with a game remaining. There are others,



and while Iran do like to keep things tight, their forays forward should be better -- in terms of quality and quantity -- than four years ago.

Biggest weakness

Iran have been the highest-ranked Asian team for four years. That theoretical superiority has been reflected by reality for at least the past two years. The team has strength in depth, match-winners and match-savers and an excellent coach, but what it lacks is games against top-class international opposition.

While qualification was impressive, Iran were not stretched enough by their continental counterparts. Preparations may be a little better than in the past, but the quality of opposition faced (Latvia, Uzbekistan and Sierra Leone) pales alongside the Belgium, Germany and Italy schedule regional rivals Saudi Arabia have lined up. The defence has

been imperious in Asia but has not been tested as much as the coach may like.

Star player

Alireza Jahanbakhsh. With one game of the Dutch Eredivisie season remaining, the winger -- that’s right, the winger -- is the top scorer in the league. With 18 goals and a whole host of assists, the 24-year-old has been one of the top performers in Europe this season. In 2014, Team Melli defended with diligence and discipline at the 2014 World Cup but just managed a single goal in 270 minutes of football.

There are more offensive weapons at Queiroz’s disposal now with the AZ Alkmaar attacker in excellent form (though pastures new are surely just around the corner). He’s fast and direct, and with confidence sky-high, he’s ready to shoot powerfully from anywhere. The most exciting thought is that

there are other dangers such as Azmoun for defenders to worry about, which gives Jahanbakhsh the freedom to do what he does best: cause havoc.

What the local media says

“For Iran to proceed from the group will be very difficult because Spain and Portugal are top teams but it will not be an easy task for them to beat Iran. Team Melli will make Iran proud.” -- Tehran Times

“We want to write our own history and book a place in the second round for the first time. We firmly believe that we can do it because we have the potential.” -- Dejagah

Prediction

After an almost perfect qualification campaign and a feeling that things were really coming together to make a first knock-out-stage appearance a real possibility, the draw was cruel. But if any Asian team can get out of it, it is Iran. Morocco will be far from easy, but three points from the opening game puts Team Melli within touching distance. There is no doubt Iran are capable of getting a result against Spain and/or Portugal, and it is fair to say Queiroz, former coach of Real Madrid and Portugal, is going to know more about the opposition than vice-versa.

Given the draw, as well as Iran’s past history in the tournament, there are no demands to finish in the top two. Being in the mix for the final game would be acceptable, and their statistic of just one win in 12 previous World Cup matches really needs to be improved.

Yet if Iran can make it out of the group, there is no reason why they could not go a little further.

(Source: ESPN)

Grand welcome for champions Iran



Tehran: Islamic Republic of Iran’s victorious AFC Women’s Futsal Championship 2018 squad have returned to a heroes’ welcome after being crowned Asian champions for a second time.

The Sharzad Mozafar-coached side, hailed the “Queens of Asia” by the Iran media, was greeted by a crowd of supporters and officials as they continued to celebrate their second AFC Women’s Futsal Championship title won with a 5-2 win over Japan in Bangkok on Saturday. The victorious players received bouquets of flowers and posed for pictures, with captain Nasimeh Gholami, Thailand 2018 Most Valuable Player Fershteh Karimi and Top scorer award-winner Sara Shirbeigi among the most sought-after individuals.

Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran President Mehdi Taj was also on hand to welcome home the players, including the outstanding goalkeeper Farzaneh Tavassoli, whose teammates have nicknamed her the ‘Asian Eagle.’

The victory has been excitedly celebrated in the country, with football’s all-time international goal-scoring record-holder Ali Daei and current Team Melli head coach Carlos Queiroz just some of the football luminaries to pass on messages of congratulations. (Source: the-AFC)

Sadegh Moharrami will Join Dinamo Zagreb, Ivankovic confirms

PLDC — Persepolis coach Branko Ivankovic said Sadegh Moharrami has reached an agreement with Croatian top-flight football team Dinamo Zagreb. The 22-year-old midfielder joined Persepolis in June 2016 on a two year contract and made his debut on 21 September 2016 in a 3–1 victory against Sepahan.

“Moharrami will join Dinamo Zagreb in the next season. I wish him all the best. I am very sad because Sadegh is a key player for us but I think he has a bright future,” Ivankovic said after victory over the UAE’s Al Jazira.

The loss of Moharrami is a serious blow as Persepolis are not allowed to sign new player in the summer transfer windows.

Omid Ebrahimi says he is ready for World Cup

TASNIM — Esteghlal midfielder Omid Ebrahimi has hit out at speculation in which he will miss the 2018 World Cup due to injury.

He is absent in the match against Zob Ahan in the second leg of the AFC Champions League Round of 16, scheduled for Tuesday.

Ebrahimi injured in the first leg in Isfahan’s Fooladshahr Stadium on Tuesday, where the Blues suffered a 1-0 defeat against Zob Ahan. The midfielder has suffered a hairline fracture in his right foot. “I will definitely be fit for the World Cup,” Ebrahimi insisted.

“Despite the speculation, I will be ready for the World Cup,” he added. Esteghlal midfielder Dariush Shojaeian has already missed the 2018 World Cup after suffering a torn ACL in Isfahan last week.

Ebrahimi has been invited to 35-man provisional Iran squad.

Farshad Ahmadzadeh to leave Persepolis: report

PLDC — Farshad Ahmadzadeh will reportedly leave Persepolis football team to continue playing abroad.

Varzesh3.com reported that the iconic midfielder bade farewell to his teammates in the dressing room after the Al Jazira match.

Ahmadzadeh has been reportedly linked with Qatari and Swedish football teams. The 25-year-old player started his professional career in Parseh in 2011 and joined Persepolis one year later.

Sadegh Moharrami will also leave Persepolis to join Dynamo Zagreb. The Iranian giants are not allowed to sign new player in the summer transfer windows and losing the iconic players would be a huge blow to them.

Persepolis skipper Hosseini thanks God for beating Al Jazira

Persepolis captain Jalal Hosseini thanked God for beating the UAE’s Al Jazira in the second leg of the AFC Champions League Round of 16.

After a 96th-minute Al Jazira goal saw the Emirati side claim a 3-2 win in the first leg in Abu Dhabi last week, Persepolis went into the return meeting needing a win to have any chance of progressing to the quarter-final for the second successive year.

The hosts dominated but had to wait until just after the hour to take the lead through Ahmad Nourollahi’s stunning effort from distance, only for Brazilian Romarinho to level and silence a packed Azadi Stadium shortly after.

But Persepolis kept pushing forward and eventually got the winner its performance deserved when Hosseini, who was suspended for the first leg, fired home from 15 yards after Al Jazira had failed to clear a delivery from the left.

“It was a difficult match and we played against a very professional side,” Hosseini told the-AFC.com.

“They were a team that played on the counter-attack and had three brilliant players who were great on the ball,” he stated.

“I want to thank God that we defeated them and I also thank our fans. I hope we can keep going,” Hosseini concluded. (Source: the-AFC)

Beitashour ready for his World Cup opportunity

As the football world waited for federations to post the much-anticipated preliminary rosters for the 2018 World Cup before the May 15 deadline, LAFC defender Steven Beitashour knew he had more than a decent shot of being called up.

“I’ve talked to them before and it sounded like I will be on that list,” the Iranian-American player smiled and told reporters in the locker room following the club’s 2-2 draw with NYCFC Sunday night. “But obviously you have to wait until its officially announced [before you can say anything].”

Even as few pundits expected Beitashour would get the nod for this World Cup, the club confirmed his preliminary Iran call-up on Monday morning along with Egyptian Omar Gaber, Mexican Carlos Vela and Costa Rica’s Marco Ureña with a call for Belgium’s Laurent Ciman expected to follow.

“I’ve been working my tail off for four years to get called back in,” said Beitashour, who last suited up for Iran during the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

The California native is the son of immigrant parents who came to the United States in the 1960s from Iran and told reporters during pre-season that he has remained in close contact with the Iranian FA throughout his moves from Vancouver to Toronto to Los Angeles.

“I know they were watching the whole time because they’ve been keeping in contact with me,” the defender said of his communication with the FFIRI. “[Iran’s national team said] ‘Keep doing what you’re doing, we’re watching every game, you’re doing really well.’”

Beitashour’s well-known defensive acumen, first at Vancouver and then Toronto, was what originally caught the attention of Iran coach Carlos Queiroz but the player who began his career with his hometown San Jose feels what he provides going forward doesn’t hurt.

“I think that people realize how much I attack if you just look at my assist record,” he said. “You got to be smart and



then when you do go forward, you’ve got to be productive.”

The outside back earned a point for the Black-and-Gold against FC Dallas last week with a first-half strike and has 33 career assists in his nine seasons in MLS and has already notched three in just 10 games this year for LAFC, where he’s started all of the expansion club’s matches.

“I’m very excited and thrilled to be on that 35-man roster but I know there is still a lot of work to be done,” said Beitashour, who is well aware that having his name on the preliminary roster does not guarantee a trip to Russia, to say nothing of game time in the tournament.

Like their teammate in the Iran squad, LAFC other World Cup candidates will look to impress during camp for their chance at what their manager Bob Bradley considers to be peak experience for players.

“When that happens, for guys to get opportunities with their national team, it’s important,” said Bradley, who along

with GM John Thorrington have repeatedly expressed their support for LAFC players called into international duty. “It shows that things are going in the right direction and there is no bigger deal for a player than getting a chance to play in a World Cup.”

More than anything, that’s what Beitashour is hoping to experience for himself. The defender was an unused substitute during Iran’s three 2014 World Cup matches in Brazil but remains optimistic his two MLS Cup appearances in 2016 and 2017, along with a strong start to 2018, can do a lot to resolve that.

“They haven’t seen me up close and personal in four years, so I have to show them how I’ve changed and evolved and gotten better,” said Beitashour. “Hopefully you get onto that 23-man roster and then ideally you’re playing and not just there.”

(Source: Mlsoccer.com)

INTERNATIONAL DAILY
www.tehrantimes.com

■ Managing Director: Ali Asgari

■ Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Ghaderi

» Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895
editor@tehrantimes.com

» Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000

» Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051450

» Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807

» Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603

» www.eshterak.ir Distributor: Padideh Novin Co.

» Tel: 88911433

» Webmaster: webmaster@tehrantimes.com

» Printed at: Rooztab - ISSN: 1017-94

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran

P.O. Box: 14155-4843

Zip Code: 1599814713

Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art undergoes restoration

A R T d e s k TEHRAN — A restoration project has commenced on the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMCA) to return the museum to its former glory, Visual Arts Office director Majid Mollanoruzi said on Tuesday. Speaking at a press conference, he elaborated on the plans ahead of the restoration project. “The museum will be closed for six months until the renovations are accomplished,” he said.



“Over the past decade, two parts of the museum ceiling were hastily renovated, but we need to follow up on the process more rigorously,” he added. The museum is scheduled to give occasional progress reports of the restoration process to the media. Plans are for the exhibition space of the museum to be expanded, TMCA director Ali-Mohammad Zare’ said. Established in 1977, the TMCA is notable in the world for its historical narration of art with the largest collection of Western art that exists in the East.

Tehran center to hang paintings by actor Reza Babak

A R T d e s k TEHRAN — Paintings by the 73-year-old actor Reza Babak will be showcased in an exhibition at the Sakoo Art School in Tehran.

Thirty paintings created over the past three decades have been selected for the exhibit, which will open on Friday, Sakoo director Narges Soleimanzadeh said in a press release on Tuesday. “This exhibition has been organized to celebrate Reza Babak’s professional lifetime achievements,” she added. She noted that the school also plans to organize a similar celebration for other veteran artists who have made great contributions to cultural development in the country.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Actor Ali Nasirian picked as president of Iran Cinema Celebration

A R T d e s k TEHRAN — Actor Ali Nasirian has been selected as the president of 20th edition of the Iran Cinema Celebration, the organizers announced on Tuesday.

The appointment was decided during the Monday meeting of the Board of Trustees of the celebration, which is annually organized by the Iranian House of Cinema.

The 20th Iran Cinema Celebration will be held during September. The exact date of the gala will be announced later.

Wenders film shows ‘emotional giant’ Pope Francis

CANNES, France (Reuters) — Viewers hoping Wim Wenders’ documentary about Pope Francis will be a critical portrait of the head of the Catholic Church will be disappointed. The German director makes no excuses for the fact this is a work of love for a man he respects. Wenders, who won the Palme d’Or for “Paris, Texas” in 1984, has made several successful documentaries, including “Buena Vista Social Club” about the Cuban music scene, and “Pina” on dance choreographer Pina Bausch - subjects that, like the pope, are things he has great affection for. “I didn’t want to make a critical film about him, other people do that really well, television does it all the time,” Wenders told Reuters in Cannes where “Pope Francis - a Man Of His Word” had its premiere.

Art exhibit on Daesh opens at Tehran

A R T d e s k TEHRAN — An exhibition displaying a selection of the works submitted to the End of Terrorism Art Competition (the End of Daesh Art Competition) opened at Tehran’s Art Bureau on Monday. Over 250 cartoons, caricature and posters from artists in 64 countries are on view at the exhibition. The displayed works are mostly from Iran, China, Turkey, Indonesia, the United States of America, Argentina, Australia, Austria and Italy. The works have been selected from over 2100 submissions by a jury of artists from Iran, Brazil and Russia. Mohammad-Hossein Nirumand, Masud Nejabati and Mohammadreza Doostmohammadi are the Iranian members of the jury, which also includes Brazilian cartoonist Silvano Mello and Russian artist Alexander Faldin. Also included in the exhibit are video arts on Mohsen Hojaji, an Iranian soldier who was killed by Daesh forces in Syria. The video arts have been created by Amir Dastmardi, Abolfazl Khosravi and Abdollah Haji seyed Hassan. An announcement from Major General Qassem Soleimani, the commander of Iran’s Quds Force who declared the end of Daesh (ISIS) in November 2017, provided inspiration for the Art Bureau to organize the competition in collaboration with Revayate Fat’h Foundation. Mohammad Bin Salman Al Saud, Donald Trump, Benjamin Netanyahu and Aung San Suu Kyi are the main

People visit the End of Terrorism Art Competition exhibition at Tehran’s Art Bureau on May 14, 2018. (Tasnim/Masud Shahrestani)

themes in the caricature category. The liberation of Mosul in Iraq and Aleppo in Syria are the central themes of the cartoon section. The exhibition will come to an end on June 2 by honoring the winners.

Iranian students reviewing autobiographical docs in Bonn

A poster for “Reluctant Bachelor” by Mehdi Baqeri, which will be screened by the Iranian Students’ Association of Uni Bonn. **A R T d e s k** TEHRAN — The Iranian Students’ Association of Uni Bonn – ISA is reviewing autobiographical documentary films by Iranian directors during four week-long programs. The program titled “Iran Today Through Autobiographical Iranian Documentaries” intends to review autobiographic documentaries by young Iranian filmmakers who are all from the new generation of Iranian society, the association has announced on its Facebook page. The documentaries, which depict the new image of Iran, have been selected for the program, which is being held at MIGRapolis-Haus der Vielfalt. The first program, organized during April, was dedicated to “Profession: Documentarist”, which was co-directed by Shirin Barqnavard, Firuzeh Khosrovani, Farahnaz Sharifi, Mina Keshavarz, Sepideh Abtahi, Sahar Salahshur and Nahid Rezai. “A Movie for You” and “Amour du Réel”, both by Iman Behruzi, were reviewed during the second program in early May. “Reluctant Bachelor” by Mehdi Baqeri has been selected to be screened during the third program, which will begin on Thursday. The fourth program, which will be begin on May 31, will review “Unwelcome in Tehran” by Mina Keshavarz.

Tehran art center displays paintings by Hossein Mahjubi

Painter Hossein Mahjubi cuts the cake for his 88th birthday at the Gooya House of Culture and Art in Tehran on May 14, 2018. (Mehr/Mohammad Moheimani) **A R T d e s k** TEHRAN — An exhibition of paintings by Iranian artist Hossein Mahjubi, known for his surrealist works, opened at the Gooya House of Culture and Art in Tehran on Monday. Mahjubi’s 88th birthday was also celebrated during the opening ceremony of the exhibit. Mahjubi’s family, painter Ali-Akbar Sadeqi, sculptor Taha Behbahani, calligraphers Yadollah Kaboli and Esrafil Shirchi and musician Keivan Saket were among the guests who took part in the ceremony. Tehran City Council member Ahmad

Masjed Jamei said Mahjubi’s paintings bear a strange feeling, which connects the earth to the sky. Veteran painter Habib Derakhshani said that Mahjubi’s works are inspired by poetry and nature, and added, “There exists an endless happiness in the horses and the trees Mahjubi has created in his paintings.” The ceremony ended with the cutting of a birthday cake and the introduction of a book of paintings by Mahjubi published by Gooya. The exhibit will be running until May 17 at the gallery located at No. 91, North Iranshahr St., off Karimkhan Ave.

Forty years after “Grease”, Travolta’s back in Cannes

CANNES, France (Reuters) — Fans of high school musical “Grease” are in for a treat if they can make it to the French Riviera this week. The movie will be screened on the beach today to celebrate its 40th anniversary. And fans might get a glimpse of its star, John Travolta, who is back in Cannes promoting his new film, “Gotti”, about a New York gangster. In 1978, Travolta, already a global sensation thanks to “Saturday Night Fever”, came to the Cannes Film Festival to promote “Grease”, a huge hit that also made him a music star with songs from the soundtrack dominating the charts. “The mid-point was ‘Pulp Fiction’, so it was 40 year, 20 year and now today,” Travolta reminisced. “My mother always told me when I was younger: ‘Don’t rush things, it’s going to go very fast’, and boom, here I am,” he told Reuters. “I’ve lived a long life but it has really gone fast.”

Director Kevin Connolly poses with cast members John Travolta and wife Kelly Preston during a rendez-vous for the film “Gotti” at 71st Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, France, May 14, 2018. (Reuters/Eric Gaillard)

“Superman” actress Margot Kidder dies in her sleep at 69

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) — Actress Margot Kidder, best known for playing Lois Lane in the “Superman” films in the 1970s and 1980s, has died at the age of 69, triggering affectionate tributes from Hollywood. Kidder’s manager Camilla Fluxman Pines said the actress died peacefully in her sleep on Sunday at her home in Livingston, Montana. The cause of death was not given. Canadian-born Kidder appeared in more

than 70 movies and TV shows, including “The Great Waldo Pepper,” “The Amityville Horror” and the 2014 children’s TV series “R.L. Stine’s The Haunting Hour,” for which she won an Emmy award. Kidder began her acting career in her 20s and shot to international fame playing the intrepid reporter Lois Lane in 1978’s “Superman”, opposite Christopher Reeve, and in three sequels. “Thank you for being the Lois Lane so many of us grew up with,” DC Comics, the home of the “Superman” franchise, said on its Twitter account. “Star Wars” actor Mark Hamill tweeted “on-screen she was magic. Off-screen she was one of the kindest, sweetest, most caring woman I’ve ever known.” Reeve died in 2004 from complications from a spinal cord injury in 1995. The Reeve Foundation, which funds research into such injuries, said it was saddened by Kidder’s death, adding, “Fly high, our friend, shine bright.” Kidder was unable to work for two years after a serious car crash in 1990, and eventually became bankrupt. Six years later, she suffered a mental health breakdown and in a highly publicized episode she disappeared for four days and spent time as a homeless person. She was later diagnosed with bipolar disorder.